THE PATRIOT WAR

BY ROBERT B. ROSS

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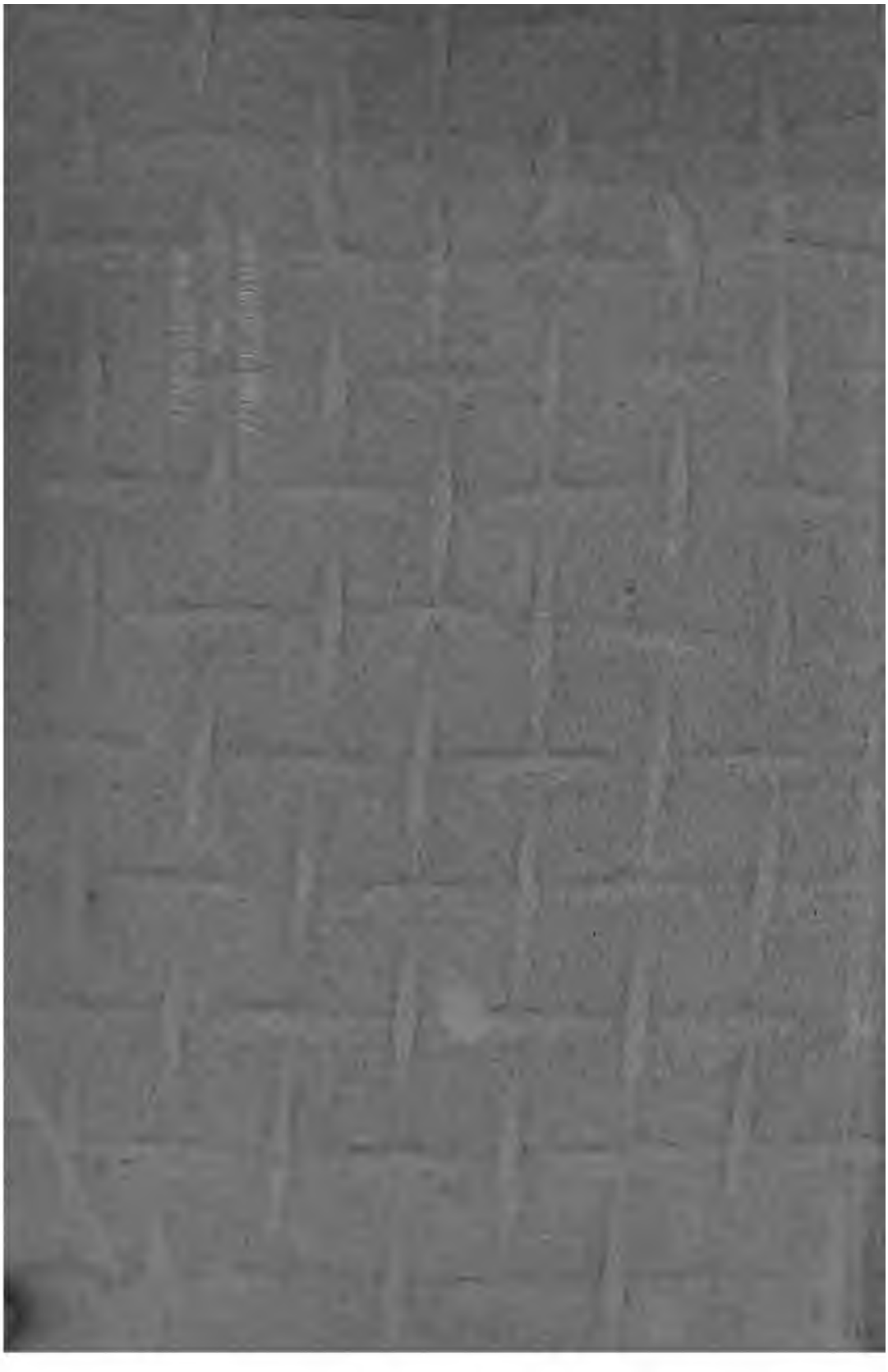

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CHAPTER I.

REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND CAUSES THAT LED TO THE REVOLT—THE LEADERS IN THE MOVEMENT AND THE MILITARY OPERATIONS THEY INSTIGATED—SOME OF THE STIRRING SCENES ENACTED ALONG THE CANADIAN BORDER—FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM UNDER PECULIAR DIFFICULTIES—FEELINGS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE FACTIONS.

The patriot war of 1837-8, during which a bloody strife raged fiercely on the Canadian frontier, has a fund of interest to the people of Michigan. The most interesting movements of the war were conducted along the Michigan border; many citizens of this State fought under the "twin stars" of the rebel forces; four engagements were contested in the vicinity of Detroit, and the last and decisive battle, which extinguished the hopes of the patriots, was fought within 2,000 yards of this city, on the opposite Canadian shore.

The causes of the insurrection date back to the English conquest of Canada in 1759, by which that country was wrested from the French.

On September 13 of that year Wolfe defeated Montcalm and captured Quebec, and both gallant generals laid down their lives on the plains of Abraham. The British conquerors did not treat their new subjects with much consideration, and to the rankling sense of subjection experienced by a proud and sensitive race were added other

BITTER MEMORIES.

In 1763 when Gen. Gage, the British commander, drafted a contingent of French Canadians to aid in revenging on the Indians the massacre of the garrison at Mackinaw, the levies were treated as beasts of burden, and set to work at the point of the bayonet, while the British regulars sat at ease in their tents. The legislative council or senate excluded all natives of Canada from a share in the conduct of its affairs. No correct idea can be given within the narrow limits of a newspaper history of the vexatious injustice practiced upon the French population. They were at one time denied the right of sitting as jurors, and were in many respects a proscribed class. Small wonder that many French Canadians joined the ranks of the heroes of the American revolution in 1776.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The act dividing the country into Upper and Lower Canada was passed in 1791. A semblance of constitutional government was then inaugurated, but the British office holders, realizing that the people's representatives would demand of them a more equitable discharge of public duties, which would necessarily curtail their privileges and emoluments, raised the cry that the French were plotting to throw off the yoke of England. More repressive measures were then inaugurated, and the natural result was a bitter hatred between the people and the governing classes. The latter were aided by a majority of the French seigneurs, who had been granted large tracts of land by the French government, and whose titles had been confirmed, as a matter of policy, by the English crown. The few seigneurs who stood by the French Canadian people became marked men, and one of them, Denis B. Viger, was charged with seditious conduct, and imprisoned in a Montreal jail when he was over 70 years of age.

Matters grew from bad to worse. The lower house of parliament passed several bills which were rejected by the legislative council, and the former then refused to vote money to carry on the govern-

ment. Agitation spread everywhere throughout the province and personal collisions became frequent. A Montreal society called the "Sons of Liberty" assembled to express their indignation at the conduct of the upper house. The gathering was attacked by the Doric club, a loyalist organization. Clubs, swords and axes were freely used, but no firearms were discharged. None were killed, but many were severely wounded. The enraged Canadian inhabitants of the counties adjoining Montreal, held a mass meeting at St. Charles, on the banks of the Chambly river, about thirty-six miles from Montreal, on October 23, 1837. Here they were addressed by Louis Joseph Papineau, member of the provincial parliament, Dr. Wolfred Nelson, L. M. Viger, F. S. Brown, A. Girod and Messrs. Lacoste and Cote, who severely denounced the conduct of the executive council. Papineau was a politician and a patriot, and ardently devoted to the interests of his race. Although a catholic, he had opposed the levying of tithes for the benefit of that church. He had served in the war of 1812 as an officer of the horse militia of Montreal. When Hull surrendered Detroit to Procter many of the American prisoners were taken to Montreal. As the captives were marched to prison under guard of Papineau's company, the British band struck up "Yankee Doodle," whereupon Papineau left the line and indignantly refused to go on, saying that the playing of the tune was an insult to the prisoners. He served as speaker of the lower Canadian parliament from 1817 to 1837.

REPRESSION AND REVOLT.

The executive council and senate became alarmed at the demonstration on the Chambly and caused warrants to be issued for the arrest of the leaders. Two of them, P. P. Desmarais and Dr. Joseph Davignon, of St. Johns, were arrested by a troop of volunteer cavalry sent from Montreal. The sight of the two prisoners, who were heavily manacled, incited the French population to frenzy. The carriage containing the prisoners was stopped in the streets of Montreal, the cavalry dispersed, and the prisoners rescued. More arrests followed, and the jails of Montreal were soon filled with prisoners of state. The British troops then stationed in the province were ordered to aid the volunteers and militia in suppressing the incipient rebellion.

THE REBELS WIN A FIGHT.

Dr. Wolfred Nelson fortified St. Denis and Dr. F. S. Brown threw up a line of defenses at St. Charles. On Oct. 22, 1837, five companies

of British infantry, a detachment of cavalry and a howitzer, under Lieut. Col. Charles S. Gore, a Peninsular veteran and third son of the earl of Mar, attempted to dislodge Dr. Nelson at St. Denis, but were repulsed and routed after a six hours' fight. The patriot forces numbered about 800 men, but only a portion of them were armed.

Papineau was a guest of Dr. Nelson at St. Denis, but instead of fighting with those whom he had incited to revolution, he left before the battle and made his way to Yamaska, on the St. Hyacinthe river, ank from thence to the United States. He subsequently lived in France for eight years, returning to Canada in 1847, under the general amnesty of 1840. He was subsequently elected to parliament, but retired from public life in 1854, and died in Montabello, Quebec, Sept. 23, 1871.

ST. CHARLES.

On Oct. 25, three days after the rebels had won their first fight, a detachment of the thirty-third British regiment, a squadron of cavalry and two cannon, under Col. Sir George Witherell, K. C. B., with other troops under Lieut. Col. Gore, attacked the patriots under Dr. Brown at St. Charles. The latter were defeated with 56 killed, 125 wounded and 30 prisoners. The British lost 25 killed and 10 wounded.

ROASTED AND BAYONETED.

The next engagement was at St. Eustache, 20 miles from Montreal, where the patriots, under Dr. Jean Olivier Chenier and A. Girod, had a force of 500 men. Sir John Colborne moved against them on December 14, 1837, with 2,000 infantry, eight cannons and a strong squadron of cavalry. At the sight of this formidable body of redcoats a number of the insurgents fled, and only about 225 stood their ground. They barricaded themselves in a church, convent, presbytery and adjoining houses. The British cannonaded the buildings, and the insurgents replied briskly with musketry. But after a few hours the majority of the patriots in the buildings sought safety in flight. Chenier held the church, which was fired by the British. As the patriots came out to avoid being roasted alive they were shot down. Chenier and others leaped from the windows and died fighting in the churchyard. Girod, who had fled from one of the buildings, was pursued, and to escape capture blew out his brains with a pistol. Nearly all the insurgents in the burning district were shot or bayoneted, and the others were consumed in the fire. No quarter was asked or given, and over 100 were killed.

Capt. Fred Marryat, the celebrated English novelist, accompanied Sir John Colborne, and was at the battle. He says that the English soldiers were so exasperated against the Canadians that "it was a service of danger to attempt to save the life of one of these poor creatures." About midnight he went to see the church. The floor had been burned to cinders, and "between the sleepers were scattered the remains of human beings injured in various degrees—some with merely the clothes burned off, leaving the naked body, while here and there the blackened ribs were all that the fierce flames had spared. Not only inside of the church, but without its walls, was the same revolting spectacle, and farther off were bodies, still unscathed by fire, but frozen hard by the severity of the weather."

The defeated hero of this bloody event was a friend of Edward A. Theller of Detroit, whose career in the patriot war will be hereinafter chronicled. They were fellow students and comrades in Montreal before 1832, at which time Dr. Theller came to Detroit.

The insurgents in the lower province, scared and stunned at the stern and bloody punishment which rewarded their attempts at independence, laid down their arms. Many fled across the border into the United States.

IN UPPER CANADA.

In the upper province similar repressive measures to that which had driven the inhabitants of the lower province to revolt had been in operation for some time and caused deep dissatisfaction. The inhabitants, as well as the rulers, however, were of British origin, and the element of racial jealousy did not enter into the strife. The ruling party was composed of what might justly be termed hereditary office holders, whose ancestors had adhered to the British crown in the revolution of 1776. Their descendants held the most lucrative political offices, and had been given large grants of crown lands, and were known as the "family compact party," from the fact that many of the most powerful families had intermarried, and were bound together by the strong ties of kinship and mutual self-interest, as well as the community of aristocratic caste.

The "British party," so-called, were mostly composed of Irish orangemen, who were entirely devoted to the British crown and bitterly opposed to catholics and catholicism. The orangemen were more powerful numerically, but no match in political strength and address to the family compact party, who were mostly all large landed proprietors, with powerful family connections in England. The two par-

ties were jealous of each other, but generally united against a common enemy. Still a great many orangemen sympathized with the rebellion, though few aided it with money or open support.

The natural result of these two parties was the formation of a third, who were called the "radicals," or reform party.

THE REFORM PARTY.

The reform party was composed of the better class of emigrants from the British isles, who, having the example of free government before their eyes across the border, were naturally dissatisfied with the rule of a small oligarchy. Among their leaders none were more popular than William Lyon Mackenzie, who was an editor, politician and patriot. Born in Scotland in 1795, he came to Canada in 1820, when he was 25 years of age. He first published the *Colonial Advocate* at Queenston, in which he attacked with a virile pen the many perversions of law and justice which were committed or sanctioned by the family compact. Six months after the paper was established he removed it to Toronto, then called York, in November, 1824. Here he continued his denunciations with such vigor and acerbity that the tories determined to silence his press. On June 8, 1826, at 6:30 p. m., in broad daylight, a raid was made by nine persons on his printing office. Their names were Samuel Peter Jones, barrister and son-in-law of ex-Chief Justice Powell; Capt. John Lyon, clerk in the governor general's office; Henry Sherwood, clerk of the assize; Charles Heward, son of Col. Heward, magistrate; James King and Charles Richardson, law students; and two sons of Hon. James Baby, member of the executive council.

The small mob overturned the imposing stone, demolished the press, battered and "pied" the type and threw a portion of the latter into the bay.

He was not to be silenced that way, however, and gathering more printing material, he resumed publication soon after, and continued on the floor of the house his denunciations of the tyrannical course of the party in power. He was elected to parliament for the county of York and took his seat in January, 1829. He continued his attacks on the party in power, and got up a series of petitions to the imperial parliament, reciting the grievances of the people of Canada and praying for redress. He was expelled from parliament for an alleged breach of privilege, but was re-elected by his admiring constituents, who presented him with a gold medal. Ejected five times, he was as often re-elected—one time in 1832, when he was in England, where

he had proceeded to petition the imperial parliament to redress the wrongs of Canada. He was the first mayor of Toronto, in 1834. Personally, he was a small-sized man, with a light complexion, reddish hair and sandy whiskers. He was an active organizer, and under his direction many thousands of voters in Upper Canada were enrolled in secret politico-military societies, which drilled at night with pikes and guns in barns and out of the way places, and practiced rifle shooting at pigeon and turkey matches.

MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN.

When the rebellion in Lower Canada broke out in 1837, he joined hands with Papineau and with Dr. John Rolph, a leading lawyer and member of parliament who had changed his profession to that of a physician, because the venal "family compact" judges would not give him fair play in his law cases; Samuel Lount, who had been a member of parliament from Simcoe county; Col. Van Egmond, a retired soldier who had fought under the first Napoleon, and others, headed about 400 men, and took up a position at Montgomery's tavern, some four miles from Toronto, with the purpose of taking that city. The rebel force consisted of 300 or 400 undisciplined farmers. The movement was made on December 5, 1837. A mistake was made in the issuing of a previous order that the patriots were to assemble there on the 7th. There were misunderstandings and incompetence among the leaders, and the uprising resulted in a fiasco. Lieut. Gov. Sir Francis Bond Head was very active in suppressing the revolt. The government troops met and dispersed the rebels. One of the insurgents was killed and a few wounded on either side. The tavern, by order of Gov. Head, was burned to the ground. Dr. Rolph was not suspected by the government, and had been sent by Governor Head as the bearer of a flag of truce to the insurgents. When the latter were dispersed he fled to the United States and afterwards went to Russia. He returned to Canada after the amnesty and was elected to parliament. In this engagement the government forces consisted of about 700 men under Col. Fitzgibbon. One of the detachments under him was commanded by Col. Allan McNab.

Mackenzie, with warrants issued for his arrest, and a reward of $5,000 offered for his capture, fled from Toronto. His escape was full of

THRILLING INCIDENTS.

It was in the winter time and very cold. He once had to strip and swim across a river that was full of floating ice. At another

time he was about being arrested by a farmer as a horse thief, and had to disclose his name. Fortunately the farmer proved to be a friend. At another time, disguised as a farm laborer, he coolly watched a party of soldiers searching a house for himself.

His final escape across the Niagara river was in full view of the British commander who had been specially charged with his capture. The commander was visiting a house near his command, and while Mackenzie was embarking in a small boat the host and his sympathetic daughters diverted the attention of the officer on the veranda from seeing the fugitive as he was crossing the stream.

Samuel Lount, who was in the engagement, made his way with a companion to the shore of Lake Erie and embarked in an open boat for the friendly shore on the other side. But after a two days struggle against wind and wave and bitter cold they were driven back on the shores of Simcoe county. Here Lount was arrested as a suspected smuggler, but was afterward recognized and committed to prison. Peter Matthew, who had been sent by the rebel chiefs with a detachment of sixty men to burn the Don bridge near Toronto, and to aid in the movement from Montgomery's tavern, was arrested the same night at the house of a sympathizer a few miles from Toronto. Col. VanEgmond was also captured at a similar hiding place. He was placed in a cold cell in the Toronto jail, contracted inflammatory rheumatism and died in a few days. He was then 67 years of age.

Mackenzie went to Buffalo where he at once commenced making speeches for the Canadian patriots. His efforts met with ready sympathy and support. The court house of Buffalo, part of which was used as an armory, was forced open by patriots December 12, 1837, and 200 muskets taken. They were recovered by the United States authorities at Black Rock the next day, with the exception of seventy which were taken over to Navy island.

After holding public meetings at Buffalo, Mackenzie established with others his headquarters on Navy island, a Canadian island in the Niagara river, about two miles above the falls, on December 13, 1837. There were only about twenty-four men at first, but the garrison was speedily increased to 400 volunteers, of which a large portion were native Americans. Here the provisional government of Canada was organized, with Mackenzie as chairman of the executive committee. The government issued scrip guaranteeing each recruit 300 acres of land and $100 in silver, payable at Toronto on the following May, and also issued shinplasters of $1 and $10 denominations.

Meanwhile another rising took place at Oakland, fourteen miles

west of Brantford, Upper Canada, under Dr. Charles Duncombe, an American by birth, who had settled in Brant county, U. C., after the war of 1812. He had represented his county in parliament and had made a determined resistance to the measures of the family compact oligarchy. The rising, however, was dispersed by a loyalist force under Col. Allen N. McNab, who had been sent there after the affair at Montgomery's tavern. McNab had done good service for his country at Niagara and Plattsburg in the war of 1812. He was afterward knighted and was Premier of Canada in 1854. One of the leaders in this rising, Robert Anderson, was afterward killed at the capture of the schooner Ann, at Amherstburg.

SYMPATHY AND SUCCOR.

While these events were transpiring, large and enthusiastic meetings were being held in the United States at Burlington, St. Albans, Buffalo, Albany, Troy, Rochester, New York, Detroit, and the cities on the chain of lakes, at which sympathy was expressed for the patriots, and money, clothing, arms, and munitions of war freely subscribed.

Mackenzie's object in establishing his headquarters at Navy island was to avoid the consequences of violating the neutrality laws of the United States, the island belonging to Canada. Hither came Rensselaer Van Rensselaer, of Albany, N. Y., who was a son of Solomon Van Rensselaer, postmaster of Albany, N. Y., and a relative of the old patroon, and was made general-in-chief of the patriot forces. He was a tall man of about six feet, two inches, well proportioned, with a distinguished appearance, but of dissipated habits. While on the island he spent most of his time in drinking brandy and writing love letters. Asa C. Dickinson, father of ex-Postmaster General Don M. Dickinson, was commissioned as colonel. While on Navy island he was wounded in the shoulder by a ball fired from the Canadian side. The ball was extracted and is now in the possession of his son. Mr. Dickinson died at his home in this city in March, 1885.

Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, a New Yorker of Scotch parentage, was commissioned by Van Rensselaer on December 28, 1837, to set out for Detroit to make preparations for a descent on Canada in that vicinity.

Mrs. Mackenzie, an estimable lady, joined her husband on the island and spent her time making flannel cartridge bags for the troops.

Gov. Head ordered Col. McNab to Chippewa, opposite Navy island,

to watch the insurgents. Both sides threw up fortifications and exchanged rifle and cannon shots across the stream.

THE STEAMER CAROLINE.

A few days afterward two young men came to McNab and offered to lead an expedition consisting of fifty men to cut out the steamer Caroline, then plying between the American shore and Navy island. The offer was courteously refused. The young men were Ensign Arthur Rankin, then stationed with his company at Sandwich, U. C., and his friend, Edward Ridout, a young lawyer of Toronto.

The Caroline was a little steamer of forty-six tons, owned by Wm. Wells, of Buffalo, and was originally constructed by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt. She was commanded by Capt. Gillian Appleby. On December 28, 1837, the steamer was cut out of the ice and taken down the eastern channel of the river to Navy island. She immediately commenced plying backward and forward between Fort Schlosser, a village on the American mainland, and Navy island, and carried many curious passengers at twenty-five cents per head, who wished to see the patriot troops and encampment. A piece of artillery and a number of muskets were carried over.

Col. McNab became aware of the traffic in about an hour and sent two men in an open boat to reconnoiter. One of the men was Capt. Andrew Drew, of the royal navy, and the other was Alexander McLeod, a Scotchman, who was deputy sheriff of Niagara county. They proceeded to the head of Navy island, and although fired upon, managed to get a clear view of the steamer. Then they returned and reported and a council of war decided the same night that a cutting out expedition should be organized and the vessel destroyed, if possible, on the night of the next day.

The expedition left the Canadian shore on December 29, 1837, at 11 p. m. Seven boats, containing an average of nine men each, started. They were under the command of Capt. Drew, of the British navy, and Lieuts. McCormick, Bier and Elmsley, and Capt. Gordon, who was master of a steamboat. Only five boats, however, reached the scene of action at Schlosser, where the Caroline was chained to the wharf. When Drew's boat reached the Caroline, a sentinel on board cried out:

"Boat ahoy! Who goes there? Answer or I fire."

"A friend," was the response.

"Give me the countersign," said the sentinel.

"I'll give it to you when we get on board," answered Capt. Drew.

His boat was touching the side of the Caroline, and he boarded her

on the star-board gangway. The boat's crew was not so active, and he was the only boarder on the steamer's deck for about a minute. A patriot fired his gun close to Drew's face, but missed his aim. Capt. Drew cut him down with his sword and then wounded another. Three others he forced, at the point of his sword, to get off on the wharf. The crew consisted of ten men, and there were twenty-three lodgers on board, who could not be accommodated at the tavern close by. Some of these were doubtless recruits who had intended going over to Navy island in the morning.

Then Lieut. McCormick's boat reached the side of the schooner and he boarded her. Some of the patriots sprang forward and he received five wounds almost simultaneously. Then the other boats came up. The lodgers and the crew were driven ashore at the point of the sword. A guard of patriots stationed at the tavern close to the wharf commenced firing at the assailants in the darkness, and Lieut. Elmsley, heading a party of sixteen men, got on the wharf to protect Capt. Drew, who was casting off the chains which fastened the steamer. The Caroline was cast off and commenced moving down the stream. She was set on fire, and the crews then rejoined their boats. The blazing vessel drifted down the current like a blazing meteor for a short distance, but stranded in a bed of rush weeds. Then she drifted loose and she forged down the river for some distance. But her upper works were now burned out and the flames went out. She sank to the bottom, where her engine could be seen for years afterward. Several parts of her woodwork went over Niagara falls, but the popular belief that the Caroline went bodily over the cataract and plunged into the abyss is not founded on fact. The patriots afterward asserted that there were wounded men on board the steamer, but this was strenuously denied by the loyalists. In the melee only one man was killed. This was one of the crew, named Amos Durfee, of Buffalo. Alexander McLeod was arrested on the American side a few weeks afterward, charged with being implicated in the killing of Durfee, and lodged in jail.

The body of Amos Durfee was taken to Buffalo by sympathizing patriots, and after being placed in a coffin was displayed in the open air on the piazza of the city hall. Among the crowd who looked at the bullet hole in the dead man's forehead was T. A. Parker, wholesale grocer, of this city, then a boy of 14, living at the house of Postmaster Haddock and a clerk in his drug store.

INTERNATIONAL EXCITEMENT.

The Caroline affair aroused popular indignation throughout the United States. Gov. Marcy of New York characterized the affair as an

outrage, and Gen. Winfield Scott was ordered by President Van Buren to proceed to the frontier, where he was given large discretionary powers for its protection and the preservation of the peace.

The British government demanded the release of McLeod, but this was refused by the United States. The case had an international celebrity, and it was believed that if McLeod had been tried, convicted and executed at this time that the two countries would have gone to war. President Van Buren, however, was opposed to war, and played a waiting game. McLeod was kept in jail till the excitement subsided and in October, 1841, he was tried before Judge Philo Gridley of the United States court, at Utica, N. Y., and acquitted by proving an alibi. He brought suit for false imprisonment against the State of New York, but failed to gain a verdict. He was afterward granted a pension of £200 a year by the British government, which he enjoyed till his death in 1871. One of his sons, Duncan McLeod, is now employed as a bartender by M. Quinn, on River street, opposite the Michigan Central depot.

CHAPTER II.

THE EVACUATION OF NAVY ISLAND—PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD IN DETROIT TO DENOUNCE THE ACTION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT—CAPTURE OF THE ANN AND BATTLE OF FIGHTING ISLAND—THE TREATMENT OF THELLER BY COL. PRINCE—THE UNITED STATES TAKES A HAND—HANGING THE PATRIOTS—OTHER INTERESTING EPISODES.

On January 13, 1838, the patriot leaders evacuated Navy island, and the arms and munitions of war were placed on board of the steamer Barcelona. Two armed Canadian vessels, under Capt. Drew, were moored at the head of Grand island, several miles up stream, with the evident intention of attacking the Barcelona as she proceeded to a point above to unload her cargo. But Gen. Scott learned of this, and placing a battery of artillery on the shore, warned Capt. Drew that if he attacked the Barcelona as she proceeded along the American shore he would blow his boats out of the water. The Barcelona brought her warlike freight to the American shore unmolested.

The arms were carried on wagons along the southern shore of Lake Erie and the shore of the Detroit river, and were hidden in the cellars and barns of friendly farmers. The patriot leaders had previously sent spies into Essex county, Canada, and they had reported that if a strong

force of patriots were landed there thousands of recruits would join the standard of revolt. It was the belief that those promises would be fulfilled that led to all the subsequent operations on the Detroit and St. Lawrence rivers, and at Point au Pelee island. The arms and ammunition were placed in care of Col. John S. Vreeland, who was subsequently charged with betraying his trust.

After the evacuation Gen. Van Rensselaer was superseded and Gen. Donald McLeod, a popular, pleasant, educated Scotchman of approved courage, who had served in the British army and was a Canadian refugee, was appointed general-in-chief of the patriot forces.

IN DETROIT.

Great sympathy was expressed for the patriot cause in this city and public meetings were held at the city hall, at which the action of the Canadian government was denounced. At these meetings Dr. Edward Alexander Theller took a prominent part. Theller was an Irishman, who, after eight years' residence in Montreal, had come to Detroit in 1832, and was a wholesale grocer, practicing physician and druggist. Among the audiences were a number of fugitives from Canada. In Michigan the patriot army of the northwest was organized, with Henry S. Handy, of Illinois, as commander-in-chief, with authority over the whole of western Canada; James M. Wilson as major general, E. J. Roberts of Detroit as brigadier general of the first brigade, and E. A. Theller as brigadier general to command the first brigade of French and Irish troops to be raised in Canada.

All this portended trouble, and Gen. Brady of Detroit, U. S. department commander, redoubled his watchfulness. At that time there were several field pieces and arms and ammunition at Fort Gratiot, sixty miles above Detroit, and Brady became apprehensive that the patriots would steal them. So he sent a detachment of the Brady Guards of Detroit on the steamer Gen. Macomb to remove the arms and munitions from Fort Gratiot to Detroit. The detachment consisted of Lieut. A. S. Williams, Sergts. George C. Bates and A. T. McReynolds and Corporal Chas. M. Bull. They loaded the guns and ammunition on the steamer, but she got stuck in the ice at St. Clair. There they landed their cargo, and brought it by wagon to Detroit.

During the first part of 1838 Manager McKinney, of the theater in Detroit, which stood at the southeast corner of Gratiot avenue and Farrar street, devoted the net proceeds of his place of amuse-

ment to the patriot cause. A public meeting was also held at the theater on New Year's day, 1838, at which money and arms were subscribed. Four days later the jail, which stood on the present site of the public library, was forced by strategem, the jailer overpowered and some 450 muskets taken. These muskets had been stored there by the authorities to keep them from falling into the hands of the patriots.

THE SCHOONER ANN SEIZED.

On January 8, 1838, the schooner Ann was seized by the patriots, and with the stolen arms on board taken down to Gibraltar, some twenty miles below Detroit, on the American side. Here the party was joined by General Sutherland. He had come on the steamer Erie from Rocky river near Cleveland with a force of sixty patriots, and displayed his commission from General Van Rensselaer. He was met by the information that the patriot forces on this frontier were already organized. He then tendered his resignation in favor of Gen. Handy. The latter authorized him to command the expedition personally, and Gen. Theller was detailed by Sutherland to take command of the Ann.

On the day the Ann left Detroit, a public meeting was held in the city hall, which was addressed by George C. Bates, Theodore Romeyn, Attorney General Pritchette, Daniel Goodwin, and Maj. Jonathan Kearsley, in which the meeting resolved to sustain the government in its efforts to preserve neutrality. Stevens T. Mason, governor of Michigan, with two hundred militiamen, left in two steamers to arrest the rebels and prevent any breaches of international peace. The expedition, however, did not do anything except come back home at night.

TO ARMS!

Meanwhile western Canada was ablaze with excitement. Intelligence of the threatened attack on the Detroit river had reached the military authorities, and Col. Thomas Radcliff, a Peninsular veteran who had been placed in command on the western frontier, made strenuous efforts to raise troops. Lieut. Wm. L. Baby, son of Legislative Councilor James Baby, left his home near Chatham, where he owned one of the finest farms on the River Thames, and with forty of the Kent county militia marched through snow and ice to Windsor, opposite Detroit. At that town, then a mere hamlet of a few hundred inhabitants, were gathered forty of the Essex county volunteers, under Maj. Ambridge, and twenty of the Windsor company under Capt. W. Hall—one hundred men in all. Col. Radcliff took charge of this force and proceeded

down the river after the Ann on the steamer Alliance, of which Capt. Clinton, father of the present superintendent of the Detroit & Windsor ferry line, was the master.

The story of the Ann is finely told by Maj. W. L. Baby, now a Dominion custom house officer at Windsor, and is here given, with some additional particulars, from his own lips.

Mr. Baby married Miss Eliza C. Chipman, sister of Congressman J. L. Chipman, of this city, and is father of W. E. Baubie, attorney of the Detroit board of education.

FOLLOWING THE ANN.

On January 8, 1838, the steamer Alliance, with the Canadian troops on board, left Windsor in chase of the schooner. On nearing Fighting island, they met the steamer Gen. Brady, with Gov. Mason and the Michigan militia on board. Mr. Baby says that all the governor did at Gibraltar was to hob-nob and drink wine with the patriot leaders. The troops on board the Brady fired several shots at the Alliance, but nobody was hit. Reaching the Lime Kilns, some fourteen miles below, they saw the Ann by moonlight. She was moored in front of the old barracks at Malden (now Amherstburg), and was firing cannon at the town. The Canadian troops disembarked at the Lime Kilns, and at daylight marched down to Amherstburg. They were ordered by Col. Radcliff to Elliott's Point, at the lower end of the town, where they watched the schooner all day. During the day Gen. Sutherland arrived with a force of 300 men in boats from Hickory island, which is directly across the river and close to the American shore, and took up a position on the head of Bois Blanc island, directly opposite Amherstburg and not more than 1,500 feet away. At seven p. m. the Ann left her moorings and tried to tack across to Bois Blanc island. The troops on the shore were posted behind trees and kept up a galling fire on the schooner. The man at the rudder was shot down, Col. Anderson was wounded in the breast, and several of the crew and soldiers were hit.

The bullets came thick and the halyards were cut, letting the mainsail down, and the schooner became unmanageable. The steady fire, together with the helpless position of the vessel, demoralized the patriots and they all sought safety in the hold.

The vessel drifted down with the current and ran aground at Elliott's Point, and Col. Radcliff ordered the militia to board her. Lieut. Baby, at the head of about thirty men, with Second Lieut. Carlyle, waded in

the ice cold water up to above their waists, and, by climbing on each other's shoulders, gained the deck of the schooner. One of the boarding party was David Johnstone Richardson, afterward dominion custom house officer at Windsor for many years. The boarding party met with no resistance, there being left on the deck only a few wounded men and a boy. Baby approached the hatchway, and having heard before that Theller was in command, ordered him by name to come forth. Gen. Theller appeared and handed up his sword and pistols, which Baby handed to Carlyle. Then lending a hand he raised him out of the hold on the deck. Theller was the only patriot on board who wore a uniform, and he had also a gilt star on his left breast. He said:

"I surrender, sir, to you."

The thirty or more prisoners were then marched through the water to the land. Theller complained that he was exhausted and bruised from the recoil of the gun, which he had served himself, and Baby took him on his shoulders to the shore.

Col. Radcliff's report to Lieut. Gov. Sir George Arthur, who succeeded Sir Francis Bond Head, on March 23, 1838, states that on January 9, 1838, the militia and the volunteer troops under his command at Amherstburg captured the schooner Ann, of Detroit, together with 300 muskets, 299 bayonets, 106 knapsacks, ten kegs of gunpowder, two fifty-pound bags of shot, two six-pounders and a nine-pounder, iron guns, half a keg of bullets, sixty pounds of lead and a number of sets of accoutrements. He also reported that Anderson, who had been a leader at Oakland and for whom a reward of £100 was offered by the government, was captured in the Ann but had died next day from his wounds. The report also submitted that the troops were entitled to prize money for the Ann and her cargo, and also the reward for the capture of Anderson, and that it be divided among them.

A RUDE AWAKENING.

Early next morning Col. John Prince, of the Essex county militia, entered the building where the prisoners, some thirty in number, were confined.

"Where is Theller?" he asked.

He was pointed to where the doctor lay sleeping on the ground with a billet of wood for a pillow. Prince strode up and kicked him on the ribs.

"Get up!" he cried, "you d——d piratical scoundrel."

Theller thus rudely awakened, sat up and recognized his old enemy. Prince once had a difficulty with an Irish servant at Sandwich, where

he resided, because, the servant said, he had demanded his wages. He came to Detroit and told his tale to Dr. Theller, who was a fellow Irishman. On the next visit of Prince to Detroit, he was arrested and compelled to pay the debt. Theller says that Prince at that time vowed vengeance.

The doctor, bewildered and indignant at the treatment, turned to Lieut. Baby and said:

"I surrendered to you and claim your protection."

"The colonel is my superior officer," answered Baby, "and I have nothing further to say."

Prince then ordered Baby to tie Brophy, Davis, Smith and Theller to a long rope. The privates and sailors were also attached to the same rope. The end of the rope was then fastened to a cart and the string of prisoners, thus treated in what Englishmen consider as the depth of ignominy—"tied to a cart's tail"—were marched to the guard house at Amherstburg.

Col. Dodge, another patriot officer, being badly wounded, was placed under the care of a surgeon. He and Brophy were residents of Monroe, Mich. The others were taken to London in wagons and afterward to Toronto, where they were lodged in prison. It is recorded that Theller was badly treated at one time by the guard after his capture, but Col. Radcliff interfered, rebuked the guard and ordered that he be treated with all the consideration due to a prisoner of war. Theller was tried at Toronto on April 6, 1838, and after a spirited defense was convicted. The jury brought in the verdict: "If the prisoner is a British subject he is guilty of treason." Four days afterward John Anderson, John Montgomery (proprietor of Montgomery's tavern) and Gilbert F. Morden were tried before the Toronto court and convicted of participating in the rising at Montgomery's tavern. When asked by Chief Justice Robinson if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon him, Montgomery said: "I have. I have not had a fair trial. There are witnesses here who have sworn my life away. These perjurers will never die a natural death, and when you, sir, and the jury shall have died and perished in hell's flames, John Montgomery will yet be living on Yonge street."

The chief justice blanched perceptibly, but, recovering himself, pronounced the sentence condemning Montgomery to be hanged on the 24th of the month. But he was not hanged. By instructions of the home government it was commuted to transportation for life. He escaped with others from Kingston jail, took refuge in the United States and after receiving a pardon in 1843 returned to Toronto and built a tavern

on Yonge street, on the very site where his tavern had been burned in 1837. He died at Barrie, Ont., on October 31, 1879, aged 96 years.

THE GALLOWS.

Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were tried at Toronto, found guilty and sentenced to death. Numerously signed petitions were presented to Sir. George Arthur, the new Lieutenant Governor, who succeeded Sir Francis Bond Head and was sworn into office on March 23, 1838. Mrs. Lount, with a petition signed by 5,000 persons asking that Lount's sentence be commuted, appeared before the new governor and implored him on bended knees to spare her husband's life. But Sir Arthur was unmoved and both Lount and Matthews were hung on April 12, 1838, at the jail, the execution being witnessed by Theller and his associates from the grates of the prison windows.

Lount was a native of Pennsylvania, but had emigrated to Upper Canada when he was twenty-one years of age. He was a man of considerable ability, and in 1834 was elected a member of the provincial parliament for Simcoe county. He joined the patriot forces and was a participator in the Montgomery tavern rising and had been commissioned as colonel by the provisional government. He left a widow and seven children.

Matthews was a wealthy farmer who lived near Toronto. He left a widow and fifteen children.

Theller was sentenced to be hanged and quartered, but owing to the clamor of Irish sympathizers in Toronto and the surrounding country and the clement policy adopted by the earl of Durham, who as governor general, had been sent from England specially charged to heal up the troubles, he was respited "to await her majesty's pleasure." A few days afterward he was joined by his faithful wife, who came from Detroit and who was permitted to see him. Col. Dodge recovered from his wounds and was brought from Amherstburg to Toronto and lodged in the same prison as Theller and his associates, about February 20, 1838.

MASON AND WILKINS.

History records the fact that when Gov. Mason went down to Gibraltar with the Michigan militia, he saw and spoke with Handy, the patriot general-in-chief. The latter, it appears was quite indignant at Theller for firing at Amherstburg, which he said was a defenseless town, and by the advice of Gen. E. J. Roberts, sent two persons to arrest both Theller and Sutherland. The two persons sent were Col. Cham-

berlain and Col. (Ross) Wilkins. Afterward when both Theller and Sutherland appeared before U. S. Judge Ross Wilkins at Detroit, to answer the charge of having violated the neutrality laws, the court was placed in a very curious position, as the offenders at the bar were his accomplices. This incident shows the widespread sympathy with the patriot cause which at that time pervaded American residents in all classes of society on the frontier.

UNCLE SAM INTERFERES.

Gen. Sutherland saw the capture of the Ann from Bois Blanc island, and incontinently bolted. He caused himself to be rowed over to Sugar island, nearer the American shore, about a mile distant, and the remainder of his men followed. Here he was upbraided by Handy and the officers and troops who numbered about 500 men. In the crowd of spectators was U. S. Deputy Marshal Silas Pates, of Detroit, who procured evidence which led to the indictment of Sutherland, Theller, Brophy, Dodge and several others in the United States court at Detroit. Mr. Pates still survives and is a citizen of Syracuse, N. Y.

The patriots in Detroit, in ignorance of the fate of the Ann, eluded the vigilance of the Brady guards, and captured the steamer Little Erie. But Gen. Hugh Brady, U. S. A., commander of the department of the lakes, found out the scheme, and going to the wharf at the foot of Griswold street, tried to prevent the boat from leaving. He was hustled by the bystanders, which roused his ire to the boiling point. Drawing his sword he maintained his position and drove back the crowd.

United States Marshal Conrad Ten Eyck ordered his armed force on the wharf to fire at the patriots on the steamer, but it was only a formal order, not intended to be obeyed. He saw that one of the men was aiming at the patriots, and throwing up the muzzle of the gun, said:

"D——n it, man, you will hit somebody."

The men fired in the air and the patriots on board cheered them, and the boat went down the river. When the Little Erie reached Gibraltar the next morning she took on supplies and recruits, and proceeded to the main camp on Sugar island. There a council of war was held and Sutherland virtually deposed.

James F. Joy, of this city, at that time had shouldered a musket to preserve neutrality, and was among the troops at the wharf when the Little Erie left for Gibraltar. He was incensed at the farcical manner in which the orders of the president were obeyed.

"I saw Ben Woodworth especially active with the patriots that day,

and I felt very much like shooting him," said Mr. Joy recently. "I was indignant at the invasion of Canada by a parcel of scoundrels, and this conduct of the authorities was so plainly in sympathy with them that I resigned next day."

The movements of the patriots on the Detroit river were suspended for a time, owing to the vigilance of Gov. Mason and Gen. Brady, but were resumed shortly afterwards.

A good story is told of U. S. Marshal Ten Eyck. The United States courts and offices at that time were in the third and fourth stories of the Williams block, at the southeast corner of Jefferson avenue and Bates street, where Edson, Moore & Co.'s dry goods store now stands. Ten Eyck's office was on the third floor. One day on the street he was talking to several of the leading patriots, and bemoaned his official troubles. They asked what was the matter. "Oh," he said in a sorrowful tone, "I have had 200 stand of arms placed in my charge to keep the patriots from getting them. They are stored in a room next my office, and there isn't a decent lock on the door. If they are stolen I am responsible, don't you see?" The hint was taken, and next morning the arms were gone.

JOY'S WARNING.

A letter written at this time by James F. Joy, then a young lawyer in Detroit, was published in the National Intelligencer at Washington. The letter urged the necessity of sending United States troops to Detroit and its vicinity to preserve the neutrality laws. The letter was read by President Van Buren, who, after being assured by Congressman John Reed, of Massachusetts, father-in-law of Mr. Joy, that the advice came from a reliable gentleman, ordered three companies of troops at Buffalo to proceed to Detroit. A detachment of United States troops arrived here on the steamer Robert Fulton on January 27, 1838. On February 12 Gov. Mason again went down the river and tried to induce Handy to disband his troops. On the same day the patriots stole several hundred stand of arms from the Dearborn arsenal, ten miles from Detroit, and hid them in a haymow at the back of the Eagle tavern, on Woodbridge street, in this city, but they were found and retaken.

FIGHTING ISLAND.

The excitment, as may be imagined, ran very high at the time in Detroit. The patriot troubles were the prevailing topic of conversation and the city authorities and Gen. Brady took the most strenuous meas-

ures to preserve the peace. The town guard patrolled the city and river bank every night, and it was proclaimed that if any exigency should arise the civic soldiery would be notified by the ringing of the bell of the Presbyterian church,which then stood at the northeast corner of Woodward avenue and Larned street. It was rung several times at night, but they proved to be false alarms. On the night of February 23, 1838, it tolled forth an alarm about midnight. The authorities had discovered that a steamer was being loaded with arms and ammunition to be taken somewhere. Few citizens and guards, however, got out of bed to see what the trouble was. One of those who did turn out was Richard R. Elliott, at that time a little boy living at his father's house on Randolph street, at the foot of Cadillac square, where Peter Henkel's store now stands. Coming down Woodward avenue, he noticed several men running down Jefferson avenue, and going with them to the foot of Shelby street he saw the Erie lying at Gillett & Desnoyer's dock. On her deck was a large amount of camp equipage, tin pots and pans, blankets, etc. There was a caisson or ammunition wagon on the dock, but there seemed to be no room for it on the deck of the steamer. Everything betokened haste and excitement, and the boat finally steamed out into the stream without the caisson.

Just then a man took hold of young Elliott's collar and pulled him over to the caisson.

"Take hold of the rope, Sonny," he said, "and we'll get that caisson away before they catch us."

The boy took hold willingly, and with about a dozen more youths and men hauled the caisson down the River road to Springwells and stopped at the Rising Sun tavern, about two miles below, at which a number of patriot troops were sleeping on the floor.

Here the Erie was waiting at a dock, and the caisson and troops were taken on board. The steamer then proceeded down the river to Fighting island.

On the same night a body of some thirty patriots assembled in the Eagle tavern on Woodbridge street and were addressed by Gen. Sutherland, who promised them land and glory. The detachment left early next morning and marched through Springwells township to the shore opposite Fighting island, a Canadian island about seven miles below Detroit. Here they were joined by about 400 patriots under Gen. Donald McLeod. The latter had marched from Cleveland with about 1,000 patriots to Sandusky. Here he divided his force, leaving about 600 to proceed to Point au Pelee island under Col. Seward and Maj. Benjamin Wait, and brought the remainder to Fighting island.

The latter force was almost entirely without arms, and Col. Vreeland, who was appointed "master of ordnance" at Navy island, was expected to procure them from the places at which they were hidden along the coasts of Lake Erie and the Detroit river. There were only fifty (some say forty-seven) muskets on Fighting island when the troops reached there.

THAT CANNON.

A six-pounder, without a carriage, arrived, and it was hauled over on the ice in a sleigh. Here it was mounted on a rude platform of fence rails. This cannon belonged to the United States. It had been borrowed by the citizens of Ypsilanti from the Dearborn arsenal, situated ten miles from Detroit, for a Fourth of July celebration, and it had been left dismounted in the commons in that village. A party of patriots came in the night, loaded it on to a wagon, and took it to Detroit. D. Frazer, of this city, who was in Ypsilanti at the time, recognized the cannon in 1852 as it lay on the wharf at Sandwich fourteen years later.

The island was covered with short scrubby oak trees which afforded no shelter against the bitter cold. Nevertheless, fires were lighted, food was cooked and eaten, and the troops bivouacked on the ground in blankets which had been brought from Detroit.

Gen. Brady, however, had been informed of this movement through the day, and had sent Lieut. Edmund R. Kearsley, of the Brady guards with a friendly message to the British commandant at Amherstburg, informing him that if the patriots should break up and retreat from Fighting island, they would be arrested, and if convicted put in prison. The British commander replied ungraciously that he would attack the rebels on Fighting island when he got ready, and if they retreated to the American shore he would follow and destroy them.

This answer made Gen. Brady very indignant. He ordered the boundary line between the two countries to be marked on the ice, and then had the line defined by small red flags.

Turning then to his force on the shore, which consisted of the Brady guards and about 800 levied troops, he said:

"Men, that is the boundary line between the United States and Canada. If a d—d redcoat crosses that line attack him—beat him back. I have faith you will do it."

THE VIGILANT CANUCKS.

Before daylight on the morning of February 25, 1838, the Kent militia, *under* Lieut. Baby, and other troops from Windsor, assembled on the

Canadian shore, opposite the island. Here they found several companies of the Thirty-second British regiment, under Maj. Townsend, and a battery of three guns commanded by Capt. Glasgow. The latter force came for Amherstburg. The Canadian force quietly waited for day to break. With the grey dawn the patriots were surprised by a fire of grape and round shot. One of the latter struck a large iron pot, in which coffee was being heated, but little damage was done.

The British forces then commenced crossing on the ice, their progress being impeded at first by a large air hole, which they had to bridge with planks. Nothing daunted, the patriots threw out skirmishers to meet them and fired several shots out of their solitary cannon, which at each discharge tumbled off its rude carriage, and was as often replaced with some difficulty.

George Doty of Detroit, who was the leading dealer in jewelry in Detroit at the time and for many years afterward, was one of the patriots present at this engagement. He was at that time a leading member of the Brady Guards, and was an expert rifle shot. It is said that he hit several of the red coats as they advanced to the island, and also brought down one of the officers on horseback. He is now a mining assayer at Breckinridge, Col., and pays frequent visits to his wife and family in this city. His brother, Henry Doty, was also present with him. The latter was a member of the dry goods firm of Doty & Abbott, on Woodward avenue. He died in 1885, and his wife and family reside in Detroit.

As the loyalist troops advanced the patriots retreated. When the former took possession of the island the patriots retreated across the ice to the mainland. The red coats did not pass the line of flags.

There is no reliable data as to the losses on either side. Mr. Baby, who was afterwards promoted to major, says that there was none killed on either side. Another account says that the British had five killed and fifteen wounded.

The patriot loss was five wounded men, who were brought to Detroit and were taken to the United States and Eagle hotels, both on Woodbridge street, between Griswold and Shelby streets. Dr. George B. Russell of Detroit, at that time in partnership with Dr. A. Terry, gave the wounded surgical attention and amputated several arms that had been mangled by the British grape shot.

DIDN'T SEE IT.

A great many citizens of Detroit who had come down in sleighs to "see the fun" and witness the invasion of Canada, only saw the

discomfiture of the unfortunate patriots, as they retreated in force. The Brady Guards, who had been sworn into the service of the United States, took several of them into custody, but subsequently let them go. Ben Lett, a fierce and determined patriot of northern New York, who had served at Navy island, was a participator, and carried a wounded man on his back to the American shore. He subsequently was at the burning of the Sir Robert Peel in the St. Lawrence, and after the war aided in blowing up the Brock monument at Queenston and several locks of the Welland canal. In 1839 he killed Capt. Usher, a Canadian officer, at his own door, near Chippewa, opposite Navy island. He was a maternal uncle of Ed. Pierce, the Detroit ticket agent of the Grand Trunk railway.

AN AMUSING EPISODE.

On the morning of the battle ex-County Auditor James A. Visger of this city was awakened by the reports of the cannon. He was then a little boy living at his father's house, about two miles from the island. With other youngsters he came down to the river to see the fun. Round shot, fired by the British artillery, struck the island, rolled along on the ice and struck the frozen bank on the American shore. With the heedless courage of youth, the boys gathered a number of the balls and afterward took them home as mementos of the fight. One of them, with a hook fastened to it and attached to a chain, kept shut the barn gate of the Visger farm for many years.

When the game was up and the red coats had taken possession of the island, a funny incident occurred, which is related by Mr. Visger as follows:

"One of the patriots came toward the shore with his gun on his shoulder. On the bayonet was stuck a piece of mess pork, weighing about ten pounds. Near the shore a round shot broke the gun in two close to his head. Dropping the stock he grabbed the bayonet end with the pork and nobly trudged along. When he reached the shore he said: 'I couldn't afford to lose that pork. My family will need all I can get for them this winter.'"

Among the surviving patriots who were at Fighting island are Alex. McArthur, a brother-in-law of the late Chauncey Hurlbut; Robert McFarland, of St. Johns, Mich., then only 18 years of age; George Doty, now in Colorado; and Gen. A. T. McReynolds, of Grand Rapids, who left the island shortly before the battle. Col. John S. Vreeland, it is said, surrendered 2,800 stand of arms to the authorities the night

before the battle. He was afterward convicted before Judge Ross Wilkins, at Detroit, of violation of the neutrality laws, and fined $1,000. It is not likely, however, that the sentence was enforced. There is no Detroit record of any patriot during the war being punished beyond a short term of incarceration.

Gen. Scott arrived in Detroit next day after the battle and put up at the Michigan Exchange.

CHAPTER III.

THE OCCUPATION OF HICKORY ISLAND BY THE PATRIOTS—ENGAGEMENT ON PELEE ISLAND—TWO ACCOUNTS OF THE BATTLE, ONE FROM A LOYALIST STANDPOINT, THE OTHER FROM THE PATRIOT VIEW—BURNING OF THE PEEL BY THE PATRIOTS—THE CLARK'S POINT FIZZLE—SHOOTING OF SERGT. CAREY BY COL. PUTNAM.

February 27, 1838, two days after the battle of Fighting island, in connection with the patriot plan of invading Canada at several points, Gen. Rensselaer Van Rensselaer made another movement. He embarked with about 1,500 patriots at French Creek, a village on the American side, a mile below Kingston, to Hickory island, on the St. Lawrence river, a short distance from the latter city. The island belongs to Canada. The large force was on the island for several days, during which the patriot commander was continuously under the influence of liquor. Naturally his men became mistrustful and they left the island in squads. They were all gone, including their commander, when a British force occupied it on March 1. Lieut. Col. Ogle R. Gowan, afterward grand master of the orange organization of Canada, was one of the Canadian officers present at this bloodless capture of the island. Van Rensselaer afterwards was tried by the United States courts in New York and sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a small fine. He married the daughter of Maj. S. Forman, of Syracuse, N. Y., and committed suicide on January 1, 1850, at his home near Salina, N. Y., by asphyxiating himself in his room with the fumes of charcoal while his wife and her father were attending church.

ANOTHER FIASCO.

About the same time as the Hickory island occupation Col. Joseph Narcisse Cardinal, a Montreal patriot and lawyer, headed a party of

some 200 Canadians, who took up a position in a wood a mile from the Indian village of Caughnawaga, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite Lachine and 10 miles above Montreal. Col. Cardinal and Lieut. Duquet entered the village to confer with the chief and head men and induce them to join the patriots. But they were shot at by the Indians, and they fled into the woods. Meanwhile the 200 Canadians grew tired of waiting for their leaders, and dispersed to their homes. Cardinal and Duquet were captured, tried for high treason and convicted, and were hung on November 28, 1838. The sentence of Lepailleur, one of their co-patriots, was commuted, and he was transported to Van Dieman's land.

PELEE ISLAND.

The next engagement was on March 3, 1838, at Pointe au Pelee island, in Lake Erie, about 50 miles from Detroit. This island belongs to Canada, and was entirely owned at that time by the late Wm. McCormick, M. P. for the old western district of Canada. Mr. McCormick was a bitter political and personal foe of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, who had put a price of $1,000 on his head, dead or alive. The island is situated between Sandusky and the long, tapering point of land which extends southward into the lake from the Canadian shore. It is the largest of the Put-in-Bay group, and contains about 11,000 acres of land. Here the patriot forces of 450 men landed about March 1 and occupied the large stone mansion and outbuildings of the McCormicks, as well as several adjoining houses. Recruits came rapidly from all points on the American shore, and the force was gradually swelled to 1,300 men, which included a number who had been on Fighting island. A large number of sympathizing spectators from Sandusky and vicinity came on sleighs on the ice to the island to view the promised invasion of Canada. The ice was fifteen inches thick from shore to shore, and the weather was very cold. The raw and inexperienced recruits spent their time for two days in constant drill.

The news of the occupation reached Colchester, Upper Canada, eighteen miles distant, very quickly, and Col. Maitland of the 23d British regiment, moved all his available force, consisting of regulars, volunteers and militia, some of which were cavalry, and two guns, to a point on the Canadian shore opposite the island and about five miles distant. The guns, however, were not used in the engagement which followed, and the patriots having no artillery, both sides were even, so far as cannon were concerned.

The accounts of the battle are so conflicting that it has been deemed best to give them from both loyalist and patriot sources. The readers of the *Sunday News* may take their choice.

DR. MC CORMICK'S ACCOUNT, IN WHICH THE BRITISH MAKE MINCE-MEAT OF THE PATRIOTS.

Dr. F. B. McCormick of Pelee island, who is a member of the Cleveland Historical Society, furnishes the following description, as told him by his father, the late John McCormick, and his uncles, David and Wm. McCormick, both dead, all of whom were in the battle; also from the lips of I. J. Sidwell, who was on the spot a few minutes after the affair was over.

"In February, 1838, the patriots, led by Gen. George Van Rensselaer, a relative of the Navy island commander, and Gen. Sutherland, together with a motley mob, came over from Sandusky, Ohio, on the ice to Pelee island, and took possession of it. Early on the morning of March 2 the British regulars and Canadian militia started from Colchester. Col. Maitland was in command of these forces, his immediate command being the Thirty-second British regiment. At early morning on March 3 they crossed on the ice, forming in line of battle off the head of the island.

"It had been said that the rebels were 2,000 strong, and that they were extended behind a range of low limestone hills which here reach across the head of the island, affording admirable protection to a defending force. Col. Maitland, with the caution of an old soldier, called for volunteers to lead the 'forlorn hope.' Instantly Capt. John McCormick, of the Essex county cavalry, dismounted from his horse and offered to lead the way. Four sergeants of the Thirty-second regiment also stepped out of the line and offered their services. The little band marched in toward the shore, which they reached just where the Pelee club house now stands. They marched straight over the hills to the old house on the farm. Fortunately the filibusters had fled, and the only person found there was Capt. Charles Gall, who had been left as caretaker for Mr. McCormick on the island, and who is well known in marine circles all over the lakes.

"As soon as the state of affairs was ascertained, Capts. Brown and Evely, of the Thirty-second regiment, with their commands, under the guidance of Wm. McCormick, jr., drove in sleighs rapidly down the west side of the island to Mosquito bay, at its southwest extremity, to intercept the patriots.

"The sleighs were stopped some half a mile out on the ice, and the regulars got out and formed in open order one and a half paces apart. A minute later the rebel force, led by George Van Rensselaer, emerged from the cedars on the shore, and forming a long line three paces apart, advanced upon the British force, at the same time pouring a converging fire upon the little band. There were ninety-six officers and privates and fourteen mounted riflemen in the British force, and the patriot troops were variously stated at from 300 to 400 men. George Van Rensselaer, with the courage of his ancient race, led on his men fearlessly in this ignoble cause, while Capt. Brown, an old Waterloo veteran, kept steadily advancing. But the rapid fire of the patriots beginning to tell, Capt. Brown shortly gave the command to fire. Then came the command

"FIX BAYONETS! CHARGE!

"The line of steel at double-quick, with the half cheer, half roar of British troops, bore down to the long line of patriots near the shore.

"Van Rensselaer, when the word 'charge' was given, was heard to shout, 'Charge and be d——d!' Drawing his sword, he cheered his men on. At this moment a bullet pierced his forehead, and he jumped high in the air and fell dead. When the order to charge was given, young Wm. McCormick seized a musket from a dying soldier. He was a boy of eighteen, but a giant in stature, being six feet four inches in height. He lead the charge at a run, and was twice shot in the clothing, one ball going through his cap and another passing through his pantaloons and vest.

"This ended the skirmish. The British loss was eight men killed and fourteen wounded. Fourteen rebels were buried at Fishing Point. How many were wounded I know not. Scores got away to the American islands in sleighs." M.

MAJ. WAIT'S STORY, IN WHICH THE PATRIOTS GIVE A VERY GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES.

On the other hand, Maj. Ben. Wait, the patriot commander who now lives at Grand Rapids, Mich., gives the following account of the battle. Mr. Wait is now in his seventy-seventh year, but in the full possession of all his mental faculties. The story is in Mr. Wait's own words, but is here related in the third person.

The patriot forces on the island, says Mr. Wait, were composed of 1,300 men, part of whom had been in garrison at Navy island, and the rest came from various parts in Michigan, Canada, New York, Ohio

and Pennsylvania. Col. Seward was in command, the second ranking officer being himself—Maj. Benjamin Wait, a Canadian patriot. The expedition had been planned in the expectation that arms would be furnished by Col. John S. Vreeland, the "master of ordnance;" but that officer repeated the experience of Fighting island. It was asserted that he surrendered the arms brought from Navy island and secreted in farmers' barns and cellars, to Gen. Brady, who had come down to Sandusky. At any rate, the expected arms were seized by the United States authorities, with the exception of one sleigh load. Col. Hoadley, of Buffalo, came to the island with these arms and was accompanied by Col. Vreeland. After they were delivered both left the island and returned to Sandusky. Vreeland's departure was ostensibly after more arms.

At early dawn on the morning of March 3, 1838, the patriot scouts and pickets who had been stationed on the ice near the Canadian shore, about five miles distant, brought in reports to Col. Seward that a large force of red coats had gathered on the opposite shore, with the evident intention of attacking the patriots. Seward and Wait ascended to the upper floor of the McCormick mansion and surveyed the enemy's forces through telescopes, which made their number plainly discernible. They both estimated the British force at 2,000 men. Col. Seward called a council of war. The situation was very grave, he said. Advancing on them was an army of at least 2,000 men, well armed and equipped. Against this force there was only a handful of armed men. The sleigh load of arms contained only 130 muskets, not counting the few who had brought their own guns. There was less than 150 fighting men in all the patriot army of 1,300 men.

"As for me," said Col. Seward, "I advise an immediate retreat."

In this advice Seward stood alone. Maj. Wait, all the captains, lieutenants and non-commissioned officers declared they would stay and fight. Even a number of privates who had elbowed their way into the council spoke up and said: "We have come here to fight, and we want to have the fun of it now."

Meanwhile the loyalists were advancing. The Canadian army was divided into three divisions. The British regulars came round on the west shore of the island; the cavalry circled round on the east side; while the militia landed on the north end and marched down the island. At the foot or south end nearest the American shore the patriots formed in line, part of their front being protected by fortifications in the shape of large balls of snow, which they had made themselves, and by huge hummocks of ice which had formed on the shore.

Col. Seward was a Buffalo man, about 38 years of age, slim of build and of blonde complexion, with bright, keen, blue eyes, and an air of courage and determination. He was plainly troubled in mind as he realized the immense inequality of the opposing forces, and he again announced that the patriots should retreat immediately. But no one would listen to him.

"See here," he said, "I'm not going to stay here to see you all murdered. I am going to leave."

Cries of derision greeted this announcement, and he evidently quailed; but he immediately set out on foot for Sandusky. He had gone but a few hundred yards, however, when his pride and courage overcame all other considerations and he walked back. Coming up to his command he said:

"Boys, I am not afraid to fight. But I hate to see you stay here when there is no chance. Anyhow, live or die, I'll never leave you. But I won't take command. I'll take a gun and fight with the rest of you boys!"

Cheers greeted this short speech, and Maj. Wait, being now in command, arranged his troops to the best advantage.

The 150 muskets or more were placed in the front line. Although the supply of guns was scant, there was abundance of ammunition—enough for 500 stand of arms. Each cartridge contained one ball, and each armed man was dealt out a pocketful of buckshot in addition, and instructed to put six or more in every charge. The armed men were placed at intervals of four or five feet. Behind, at a distance of four paces, were the unarmed men, numbering over 1,100, who were carefully instructed to pick up the guns and ammunition of the armed men who fell. Between the two ranks were the commissioned officers.

Col. Seward was given charge of a squad of armed men.

By this time the British regulars had circled round the island and were now almost directly between the patriots and the American mainland. The cavalry were hovering on their right flank. The militia were coming up at their backs, but were more than a mile away. Maj. Wait gave his final orders as follows:

"Men, I don't want a shot fired till I give the order. The signal will be a flourish of my sword in the air. The officers will watch for that and then give you the command to fire. Forward! Double quick, march!"

Had the British commander known the exact strength of the patriot force, he would doubtless have killed or captured every one of them. It was a sight that has seldomed been paralleled in the history of

modern war. Less than 150 armed men, followed by a crowd of over 1,000 non-combatants, boldly advancing on a trained body of about 800 infantry, many of whom were English veterans and under English officers, who had seen many bloody days under Wellington at Badajoz, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes and Waterloo.

The British gamely stood their ground. At one time Wait made a flank movement to the right. Everything was plainly discernible on the icy plain, and the British met the move by a concentration of their troops at the threatened point. Maj. Wait then made a feint on the center, and the British executed a counter movement by massing their left flank on the center. Wait then ordered a rapid advance on the left. During this maneuvering the British fired three volleys and a number of patriots fell. But their arms were quickly taken by the unarmed men, Although the temptation to fire at the redcoats was almost irresistible, not a man disobeyed Wait's order. All awaited the signal with beating hearts. The British line was now only discernible by the clouds of smoke. The patriots were still rapidly advancing on the redcoats, and when about seventy-five yards distant from their line, Wait's sword flashed in the air.

"HALT! READY! TAKE AIM! FIRE!"

A death dealing volley was fired into the ranks of the regulars. The patriots loaded and fired twice more, and then the order came "Forward, charge!"

It was one of the few times that British troops recoiled from a charge of bayonets, but they did it that time. When the patriots reached the British battle line it was only defined by the bodies of the killed and wounded. The survivors retreated westward and northward in the direction in which they came. Having broken through the British line, the patriots reloaded and kept on their way to the American mainland, the front rank being now converted into a rear guard. The Canadian cavalry on the west side of the island followed and made some threatening demonstrations, but several volleys of "buck and ball" made them keep a respectful distance. The patriots carried with them a number of muskets dropped by the enemy who were wounded or killed.

The battle of Pelee island was of course a reverse to the patriots, but it was justly regarded as one of the most brilliant achievements of the war. The raw, undiciplined, poorly-armed patriots inflicted a great loss on their enemy and escaped with very little damage. A most reli-

able history of the war, written by Lindsey, nephew of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, says that the British had 55 killed and "a great many wounded." Dr. Theller's "Canada in 1837–8" says that 36 British regulars fell at the first fire and that some 30 afterward died at the Amherstburg hospital of their wounds, "scarcely any of those wounded surviving."

Col. Wait, whose memory is remarkable, says that he read Maitland's official report of the battle, and in this the British commander acknowledged that no less than 630 of his men were *hors du combat* after the battle, and that 65 of these were killed. The latter statement, if true, is capable of explanation. Each patriot volley of say 150 guns carried 1,100 bullets into the British ranks, and it was not impossible for the three volleys, fired at point blank range, to have produced this effect. "Buck and ball" was always a favorite charge in the American armies in the several wars since 1776 till modern arms of precision came into vogue and buckshot became practically useless at long range. Capts. Henry Van Rensselaer and John Keon and five privates of the patriots were killed. Major Wait says that about 25 were wounded, who were all taken prisoners. Some of these died and a majority of the survivors were transported to Van Dieman's Land. When the patriots arrived at Sandusky they found Gen. Hugh Brady with a force of Ohio militia waiting for them, and they were formally taken prisoners. The general quickly identified Wait as the leader, and addressed him with military gruffness as follows:

"You must surrender, sir; give me your sword."

Wait's temper, which had been cool and unruffled through the recent scene of carnage and death, suddenly gave way. He did not say a word, but taking his sword out of his scabbard, he bent it across his knee and was about to break it. Brady noticed the motion and said hastily:

"Hold on, sir; you can keep your sword."

The patriot force in this engagement then disbanded and went to their homes. Major Wait then proceeded to Buffalo and the frontier along the Niagara frontier, and distinguished himself in one more disastrous affair.

Theller and another historian say that the same evening Gen. Sutherland, who was not in the engagement, was walking, it was said, on the ice near the island, supposing that the red coats had returned to the Canadian shore. He was accompanied by a young man named Spencer. They were met on the ice by Col. John Prince and a man named Haggerty, who took them both prisoners. They were sent to

Toronto and lodged in the same prison with Theller and the other captured patriots. Sutherland was certainly captured on the ice by Col. Prince, but it was at some point on the Detroit river.

Shortly afterward young Spencer was released, together with seven of the privates or sailors taken on the Ann. The American prisoners, including Theller, Sutherland, Dodge and seven others, were taken to Quebec, and the Canadian prisoners, including Brophy, were taken to Kingston, where the native patriots were confined.

GALLANT MAITLAND.

The battle of Pelee island was fatal to the British commander, although he did not fall by ball or blade. Col. John Maitland, C. B., was a younger son of Lord Lauderdale, a Scottish peer, and served in Spain and Portugal under Wellington. In 1816 he served as inspecting field officer on the Ionian isles. He caught a severe cold during the attack on the island, which speedily cut short his life. He died at London, Canada, on January 18, 1839.

THE BURNING OF THE PEEL.

On the night of May 29, 1838, the Canadian steamer Sir Robert Peel landed at Well's island, which belongs to the United States and is situated near Kingston. There were about twenty cabin and about fifty-five steerage passengers on board. Suddenly a small band of patriots, disguised as Indians, jumped on board, crying, "Remember the Caroline! Remember Schlosser!" The crew and passengers were put on shore, but were not otherwise molested, the patriots even assisting the passengers in getting their luggage on the wharf. The steamer was then fired and burned to the water's edge. All accounts agree that Ben Lett was a leading participator at this affair. His other guerrilla-like exploits have already been chronicled.

The commander of this curious naval foray was William (oftener called "Bill") Johnston. He was a native of Canada, and his father was a wealthy farmer, who left him in comfortable circumstances. William was a republican in principle, and joined the Americans in the war of 1812, and for this his property was confiscated in 1814 by the Canadian government. When the Canadian troubles commenced he was commissioned as commodore of the patriot navy. One account says that Johnston's forces at Well's island numbered only 13 men. He was afterward arrested, tried before the U. S. courts in 1840, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined $1.

LOST HIS NERVE.

When Sutherland was imprisoned with Theller and the other patriots at Toronto, he became convinced that he would be executed. Fear of death on the scaffold haunted him, and he resolved to commit suicide. Under the pretext that he wished to bathe his feet he obtained some warm water. He then opened a vein in each foot and arm. His situation was discovered after he had fainted from loss of blood, and he was restored to consciousness.

Sutherland was tried at Toronto and convicted and was sentenced to be transported to Van Dieman's Land.

MARRYATT'S BOOKS BURNED.

Fred Marryatt, the popular English novelist, after being a spectator of several fights, made a tour of Canada and the United States in 1838. At Toronto he was tendered a reception and banquet and responded to the toast of "Capt. Drew, the gallant officer who cut out the Caroline." His eulogy on Capt. Drew was in the highest degree distasteful to the patriots. Marryatt visited Detroit in June and was the guest of E. A. Brush at the house of the latter on the southwest corner of Jefferson avenue and Brush street. Marryatt was made much of by the army officers, officials and prominent business men, but the sympathizers with the patriot cause denounced him bitterly. One night a huge bonfire was made on Jefferson avenue in front of Mr. Brush's house and into it were cast, amid hootings and jeers, all the copies of Marryatt's works that could be gathered together. The captain took the hint and left town.

THE CLARK'S POINT FIZZLE.

On June 8, 1838, there was a gathering of about 200 men on the bank of the Niagara river, at Clark's point, N. Y., about three miles below Lewiston. In the river was moored a scow and an open boat. The leaders in the crowd were the patriot officers, Col. Geo. Washington Case, of Hamilton, U. C., and Col. James Morreau, of Girard, P[illegible] Case was the leader of the expedition, and it was intimated [illegible] steamer would come and tow the boats across. He called for v[olunteers] but only twenty-three men stepped forward. The expediti[on] doned in disgust. Case was an active patriot and subs[equently] ipated in the battle of Windsor on the following Dec[ember] across the river in a canoe. He was subsequently [tried] court at Canandaigua, N. Y., for the Clark's poi[nt affair]

tenced to be imprisoned twelve months and fined twenty dollars. He had a personal difficulty with Gen. T. J. Sutherland in the early part of 1838, at the National hotel (now Russell house), Detroit, and Theller says that Sutherland was soundly thrashed.

A MEMORY OF PUTNAM.

In the summer of 1838 there were many small detachments of Canadian militia posted along the banks of the Detroit and St. Clair rivers and Lake St. Clair, for the purpose of watching the movements of the patriots. One of these small posts was in a log house, some four miles east of Wallaceburg, and was in command of a sergeant named Carey. One day a tall, dark complexioned, powerfully-built man, carrying a carpet bag came up to the house where the detachment was stationed and asked for a drink of water. A militia man drew the water from the well in the front yard and brought it to him in a tin cup. He was in the act of drinking when Sergeant Carey went up and put his hand on his shoulder and said, "You are my prisoner!" The stranger pushed Carey's hand away, and was walking off, when Carey followed him. Quick as a flash the stranger drew a pistol from his pocket,

SHOT THE SERGEANT DEAD

on the spot and then ran off swiftly. The guard pursued and fired at the fugitive, but could not overtake him. On returning they found the carpet bag which the stranger had dropped in his flight. It contained several articles of underwear and some collars, on which was marked in indelible ink the word "Putnam." It has always been believed that the stranger was Col. Putnam the patriot officer. He was a grand-nephew of Gen. Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame, and had settled in Canada in the London district. When the war broke out he crossed the frontier and was commissioned as colonel by the provisional government. It is supposed that at the time he killed Carey he was acting as a spy or organ[illegible] disaffected districts, or paying a secret visit to his [illegible] at the battle of Windsor, in th[illegible]

[illegible]sland, at the other com-
[illegible] Gen. Brady
[illegible] the frontier

on July 4, 1838. Their officers were: Captain, Isaac S. Rowland; lieutenants, A. S. Williams, Edmund R. Kearsley and James S. Armstrong; sergeants, George C. Bates, John Chester and George Doty. The company was 100 strong.

CHAPTER IV.

THE WAR IN THE SHORT HILLS DISTRICT—BEEMER DISGORGES—MORREAU TOAST—THE PATRIOTS WHO WERE SENT TO BOTANY BAY—NARRATIVE OF THELLER'S ESCAPE—BATTLE OF PRESCOTT—THE PORT HURON PATRIOTS—GEN. BRADY'S TROUBLES—BEGINNING OF THE MOVEMENT IN WINDSOR.

Along the Niagara river frontier, in Canada, there were many sympathizers with the patriot cause among the farmers and other residents. In August the spies and scouts sent to Canada brought information that 2,000 Canadians in that region would join the standard of revolt against the family compact when a sufficient force was landed in their midst. This information was apparently confirmed by the statements of Samuel Chandler, a refugee, who had been a prominent resident and justice of the peace in the Short hills district. The Short hills is a stretch of broken and hilly country about eight miles north of the Niagara river. Mr. Chandler urged that the movement would be successful, as he knew the feeling among the residents. An expedition was planned, and Col. James Morreau, a native of Girard, Pa., of Irish extraction and a Catholic, was chosen as leader. The second in command was Maj. Benjamin Wait, a Canadian, who had lead the patriot forces at Pointe au Pelee island. A turbulent spirit in the small crowd was Jacob Beemer, a Canadian refugee, whose fidelity to the patriot cause was more than suspected. The crowd consisted of twenty-six men, all Canadians except Col. Morreau and a boy named Cooley. On June 11, 1838, they crossed from the American side to Navy island, and at midnight crossed in boats to Chippewa, on the Canadian side, directly opposite, which is the old battle ground of 1812. Here the "twin stars" was hoisted and the inhabitants notified that their deliverers had come. But the residents did not flock to the standard of revolt in any appreciable numbers. Gen. Donald McLeod, the patriot commander-in-chief, heard of the movement next day. He was at Lockport, New York, and had been making extensive preparations to invade Canada at several points on the coming 4th of July. He saw that this

small incursion might frustrate his plans, so he dispatched Col. Linus W. Miller next day, on June 12, to order Morreau and his troops back into the United States. Miller was an American, an educated man, a lawyer by profession, and a native of Stockton, Chautauqua county, N. Y., where his parents resided. Miller crossed the line with James Waggoner and David Hill, the latter being one of the celebrated "Bill" Johnston's men at the burning of the Sir Robert Peel. They found the little party in the bush, and Miller delivered McLeod's order to Col. Morreau. The latter read the order with surprise, as Beemer and others had told him that 3,000 men would join the party. He immediately called the men together and asked them to return to the other side at once. They resolved, however, to stay and fight, whereupon Morreau resigned the command and Beemer took his place. The party received some accessions to their ranks, and next day they numbered forty-nine in all. Morreau and Miller decided to remain with the party.

At night the patriots marched to St. Johns, a small village three miles distant. Here a detachment of a lancer regiment consisting of seventy men, who had taken up their quarters in the village inn, were captured. Beemer, during the same evening, robbed a rich tory named Overholt of $1,000.

BEEMER DISGORGES.

Early the next morning Beemer ordered seven of the lancers hung in retaliation for the hanging of Lount and Matthews. The prisoners were drawn out, and were about to be strung up, when Miller, after consulting Morreau, resolved to stop this terrible barbarity. Drawing out his two pistols and covering Beemer, he said:

"Jacob Beemer, by virtue of the commission I hold in the patriot service, which entitles me to command here, and in the name of the provincial government of Canada, whose orders you have disobeyed, I now place you under arrest."

Motioning to two men in the ranks, he said: "I order you to take Capt. Beemer in charge."

The men hesitated, but Miller pointed his pistols at them, and they forthwith arrested Beemer. Col. Miller then said to the other officers: "Do any of you dispute my right to command?"

"No; I wish you to do so," said Maj. Wait, "and put a stop to these horrid proceedings."

Beemer was then searched, and his pockets were found to contain

watches, purses of money and valuable trinkets. He was then obliged to take off his coat and vest, which he had taken from a prisoner that morning, and they were restored to the owner.

The booty was then restored to the owners. Miller then swore the seventy lancers on his pocket testament not to take up arms against the patriot cause.

The party appropriated the horses and arms of the lancers and then set forth. Miller then resigned the command to Beemer, but advised the man to seek individual safety in flight. The consequence was that in less than an hour Beemer found himself alone. The whole country side united in hunting the patriots down. Morreau was chased into a tangled swamp near Grand river, some thirty miles north of the Niagara, and took refuge in the house of a Canadian farmer. The latter assured him that he was in safe hands, and then treacherously informed the authorities and Morreau was arrested. His companion, named Vernor, was hunted down by a dog. For this the farmer received the reward offered by Lieut. Gov. Arthur for Morreau's apprehension. The sixteen prisoners captured, including Maj. Wait, Justice Chandler, Col. Miller and the boy Cooley, were taken and lodged in the county jail at the village of Niagara. They were all tried and sentenced to death. Cooley was respited on acount of his youth, but Morreau was hung at Fort Massassauga, close to the village, on July 30, 1838, within full view of his native country. His body was given to the surgeons for dissection.

Morreau was about thirty-five years of age, elegant in figure, of gentlemanly deportment and of easy address. While a prisoner at Queenston, a few miles from Niagara, some one brought him a glass of wine and he drank it after giving the toast, "May Canada never become quiet until the American eagle floats on the heights of Queenston!"

SENT TO BOTANY BAY.

Maj. Wait, Magistrate Chandler, Col. Miller and Capt. Beemer, who was captured after the others, were considered dangerous men and no respite was ordered in their cases. The sentences of the others were commuted to transportation to Van Dieman's Land. Mrs. Wait subsequently procured a commutation of sentence for her husband, Cooley and Beemer from Lord Durham, and these three were afterwards sent to the same penal colony as their comrades. Maj. Wait, who now lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., had a remarkable after life. His adventure, and also that of his devoted wife, form a narrative of thrilling interest

seldom found outside of works of fiction, and a short chapter of it will be related at the end of this history.

Miller served seven years as a convict in Van Dieman's Land, his pardon being delayed on account of an unsuccessful attempt to escape. He was pardoned in 1845, when he returned to the paternal roof tree at Stockton, Chautauqua county, N. Y.

Among the patriots who escaped was Patrick Tuite, of St. Catharines, U. C., father of Thomas Tuite, the present city treasurer of Detroit. Tuite was an Irishman, a farmer and a man of great physical powers. He was very proficient in feats of strength and activity, and could lift a forty-five-gallon cask of whisky and drink out of the bung hole. He was a patriot from the first, a devoted friend of Mackenzie and was present at Montgomery's tavern. Mackenzie lost his large fur hat in that engagement, but it was found by Tuite, who restored it to him at some place between Toronto and the Niagara river. Tuite was also on Navy island when the Caroline was cut out and went blazing over Niagara falls. Escaping across the line after the Short Hills affair, he took part in several other operations, and settled in Detroit. Here, in 1840, he married his wife, an Irish maiden whom he had known in Ireland when they were both children. After the amnesty act of 1840 he returned to his old home at St. Catharines, where he died in 1853. Treasurer Tuite was only six years old when his father died, and in his boyhood days the incidents of the patriot war formed the staple topic of conversation around the paternal fireside.

JAIL DELIVERIES.

Brophy, Morden, Chase, Montgomery, and ten others were so fortunate as to escape from Fort Henry, at Kingston, on July 30, 1838. Two of the ten not named, one of whom was John G. Parker, father of T. A. Parker, of this city, were recaptured, the others made their way across the border, where they were received in several cities with open arms.

Theller and his companions in Quebec began in July to perfect a plan of escape from the citadel. Sutherland, who was confined with them, was cordially detested by his fellow prisoners. He complained to the officers of the prison that they would kill him, and twice attempted to stab Dodge with a knife, and was soundly thrashed by the latter on each occasion. Lord Durham sent his secretary, Charles Buller, who had previously been an English member of parliament, to inform Theller that he would be sent to England "to await Her Majesty's pleasure,"

which meant that he would be sent to Van Dieman's Land, and Sutherland was also informed that he would be set free after furnishing bail for future good behavior.

THELLER'S ESCAPE.

On the dark night of October 16, 1838, after cutting the bars of their dungeon with saws that had been conveyed to them by a French sympathizer, Theller and Dodge, and two other patriot prisoners, named Culver and Hall, escaped to the edge of the fortifications and dropped one by one over the battlements, a distance of twenty-five feet. Theller sprained his foot, and Culver broke one of the small bones of his leg. The disabled men were helped by the other two through the dark and narrow streets of Quebec, and finally found shelter in the house of a French Canadian sympathizer. The whole city was searched by the soldiers, who ransacked every house in several quarters. An Ursuline convent was searched for the fugitives, and a funeral was stopped in the street and the coffin examined to see if it contained one of the escaped patriots. After Theller and Culver had partially recovered from their injuries, they made their way across the border in carriages and on horse back into Maine a distance of ninety miles. In this perilous journey Theller was part of the time disguised as a priest, and speaking French fluently was able to evade all suspicious officials or loyalists along the route. The four proceeded to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington with Mackenzie, who was then publishing a newspaper in New York. At the capitol, despite the fact that President Van Buren discouraged and contemned the patriot movement, a Hunter's lodge was organized, at which four-fifths of the members were government clerks and officers. There were thousands of citizens who believed that Van Buren's defeat for the presidency in 1840 by General Harrison was caused by his action with regard to the patriot war.

NAPIERVILLE AND LACOLE.

After the escape of Theller and his companions, and while they were firing the American heart with their recitals of the wrongs of Canada, a concerted plan for invading Canada at two different points near Rouse's Point, New York, was carried out by the patriot leaders. The first was in two columns from Lake Champlain, whose waters touch the shores of New York and Vermont, and whose northern extremity is in Lower Canada. The British base of operations for the protection of Montreal was at Ile aux Noix, an island in the Richelieu river, thir-

teen miles north of the Vermont line, and about sixty miles southwest of Montreal. Dr. Robert Nelson, whose brother, Dr. Wolfred Nelson, had defeated the British troops under Col. Gore at St. Charles on the previous year, gathered a force of patriots, some of whom were unarmed, and took possession of Lacole, which is seven miles south of Ile aux Noix, and about the same distance north of the Vermont line. A British force from Ile aux Noix, under Maj. Skinner, defeated his advance guard with considerable loss. When he returned to the main body he found his men in a mutinous condition. The British troops followed and mowed them down with grape shot, and about fifty were left dead on the field.

Dr. Cote, who was one of the original Lower Canada patriots, took possession of Napierville, a village situated about twenty miles north of the New York line and about fifty miles southwest of Montreal. But his position was untenable, and he had to retreat.

Both of these forays were shorn of all chance of success, by the seizure of arms intended for their use, which had been sent on a schooner. The vessel was captured on Lake Champlain by the United States authorities. The steamer Burlington, of Burlington, Vt., commanded by Capt. R. W. Sherman, transported a body of Canadian troops across the lake and landed them in rear of the retreating patriots, many of whom were captured. All the above territory is in the neighborhood of Rouse's Point, N. Y.

Sir John Colborne, commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces, sent dispatches from Lacadie county, near Napierville, dated Nov. 12, 1838, announcing that all the rebels assembled in the Montreal district had been entirely dispersed by her Majesty's troops and volunteers.

After these engagements Colborne let loose the dogs of war in the rebellious district. During the balance of the month he burned seventy-four houses and twenty-two barns, valued at $49,760; six houses were destroyed and 335 houses pillaged, valued at $26,800; total, $76,560. There were 231 women and 243 children turned out of their homes during this winter month.

THE BATTLE OF PRESCOTT.

The hopes of the patriots were not so bright as in the beginning of the year, but nevertheless the Hunter's lodges in and about Syracuse, Oswego, Sackett's Harbor, Watertown, Ogdensburg and other points at or near the Canadian border, resolved on another attempt to secure the independence of Canada. On the morning of Nov. 12, 1838, two armed

schooners, lashed on either side of the steamer United States, with about 250 patriots on board, appeared in the St. Lawrence river, between Ogdensburg, N. Y., on the one side, and Prescott, Canada, on the other. Both towns were thrown into confusion, the inhabitants of Ogdensburg generally cheering the patriot vessels. The patriots on board the steamer United States, were soon engaged with the Canadian steamer Experiment, both firing briskly at each other. The patriots landed at Windmill Point, on the Canadian shore, and fortified themselves in the windmill and several other stone buildings. The Experiment and two other steamers, the Coburg and Traveler, threw shells at the patriot forces. The latter returned the fire from several field pieces on the shore. About 500 Canadian troops landed at the windmill, behind which the patriots had thrown up some earthworks. After a short engagement the loyalists retreated with a loss of fifty killed and wounded, the patriots only having thirteen wounded. On the fourteenth both forces lay on their arms and the dead were buried. The request of Col. Dundas, the Canadian commander for leave to bury the dead was granted by the patriot leader. On the fifteenth the Canadians received reinforcements and kept up a continuous cannonade till evening, when the patriots surrendered. Their leader, Van Schoultz Nils Schoblewiski, was a Polish exile, who had fought for the independence of his native country, and whose father was a major at Cracow.

Lieut. Col. Ogle R. Gowan, afterward grand master of the Orange organization of Canada, distinguished himself as a Canadian officer in this engagement. He received three wounds, including a bayonet stab in the hip. The British loss in this engagement was eight officers and sixty-two men. The patriots lost seventy-two killed and 167 prisoners. Gen. Van Schoultz was about thirty-one years of age, an educated, handsome, dashing gentleman. He had been living at Salina, N. Y. At his trial he was defended in a masterly and brilliant style by John A. Macdonald, then a young and struggling lawyer, now Premier of Canada. It was this trial that first brought young Macdonald into public notice. Van Schoultz was convicted and sentenced to death. In prison he bitterly blamed Gen. J. Ward Birge, who was his superior officer, and Commodore "Bill" Johnston for not bringing up reinforcements. He was executed December 8, 1838.

Gen. Birge subsequently retorted in a letter in Mackenzie's paper, then published in New York. He said, in effect, that Van Schoultz, by moving on Prescott with such a small force and without his (Birge's) advice or consent, had invited failure in advance.

THE PORT HURON PATRIOTS.

In 1837–8 there was a Hunters' lodge at Port Huron, Mich., with 100 members, which was constantly being recruited from Sarnia, on the opposite Canadian shore. The leading members of the lodge were the late Granville F. Boynton, father of ex-Mayor Nathan S. Boynton; John Campbell, father of W. W. Campbell, now a prominent merchant; Stephen V. Thornton, founder of the village of Thornton, ten miles from Port Huron, who died about eight years ago; Charles Flugal, who died at an advanced age about 1885; John Robinson and James Armstrong. Boynton and Flugal were very active and influential in the cause. Flugal had formerly been a sergeant in the United States army. Just before the battle of Windsor, December 4, 1838, the Port Huron patriots made preparations to invade Canada at Sarnia, directly across the St. Clair river, and had a promise of reinforcements from Detroit, but their intentions were discovered and Gen. Brady warned the Canadian authorities.

Mr. Boynton's wife's father, Capt. Louis Rendt, was a native of Germany and a retired British officer, who had fought under Wellington in Spain and had commanded a company of redcoats in the war of 1812. He was living in Canada, near Sarnia, and commanded a body of men, whom he picketed along the river. He also placed several field pieces in position, ready to give the patriots, including his own son-in-law, a warm reception. The reinforcements from Detroit did not come, and the contemplated raid was abandoned. At 9 p. m. on the evening of the expected attack, a steamer was seen coming up the river, and the inhabitants of Sarnia, believing it was a patriot vessel, were filled with dismay. The men grasped their arms and the women and children fled to the woods. In the morning they discovered to their relief that the steamer was only the regular passenger boat from Detroit.

Several Port Huron patriots participated in the battle of Windsor, and one, Capt. James B. Armstrong, lost his arm, as will be afterward related.

GEN. BRADY'S TROUBLES.

On November 21 the steamer Illinois, with Gen. Brady in command, captured a small schooner near Gibraltar, sixteen miles below Detroit. The vessel had about 250 stand of arms and a quantity of ammunition designed for the invasion of Canada. She was brought to Detroit the same evening, and the first thing that Gen. Brady learned when he

stepped on the wharf was that the patriots had stolen a number of muskets belonging to the Brady Guards. The arms had been stacked in the vestibule of the Detroit city hall, while the guards were keeping watch on the court room. An old citizen relates that the arms were stolen with the connivance of several members of the company. All arrangements had been made for taking them away and hiding them in a safe place. Just at this time Gen. Sutherland, who had been on a lecturing tour in the interior, speaking on the wrongs of Canada and collecting sums of money for the patriot cause, returned to town. He heard of the scheme and resolved to steal the guns and appropriate all the credit for himself. Several of his friends stole the guns, accordingly, but the theft was done in such a bungling manner that Gen. Brady was able to identify the participants and discover the hiding place of the arms. The latter were returned two days afterward.

THE MOVEMENT ON WINDSOR.

The almost uninterrupted defeats which had overtaken the patriots did not seem to discourage the leaders on the Detroit river. Their persistence was rather remarkable on account of the perpetual interference of the United States authorities at all points along the border. Gen Scott was kept continually on the move between the Niagara river and Detroit, and the militia in the northern portions of New York, Vermont, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and on the eastern border of Michigan, were under arms to prevent breaches of the neutrality laws. The Brady Guards, of Detroit, composed of the best citizens in this place, had been sworn into the service of the United States, and were kept busy patrolling the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, and also kept watch in the United States arsenal at Dearborn, ten miles from Detroit. The city government also maintained an armed patrol, which guarded the city at night. Still the attendance and membership of the Hunter's lodges in Detroit and Port Huron and the other American cities on the border kept increasing. Seven-eighths of the population were in sympathy with their objects and aspirations. One of the largest was organized at Cleveland, and in November, 1838, a regiment of Ohio and Pennsylvania patriots under Brig. Gen. Salathiel S. Coffinberry, a newspaper editor and publisher of Mansfield, Ohio, received orders from Gen. Handy to proceed to Detroit. A few days afterward over 300 men came to Detroit. One of the members of this regiment was the late John Harmon, afterwards customs house collector of the port and mayor of this city, and who died at the Michigan Exchange hotel in Detroit August 6, 1888

Part of the troops were encamped in tents in a field on Bloody Run, now included in the city limits, where they were joined by others from above and below, including a number of Canadian refugees. The majority, however, were adventurous young men who were natives of the United States. At one time the camp contained about 600 men. The ranking officer in command was Brig. Gen. Lucius Verus Bierce, a lawyer, and brigadier of state militia of Akron, Ohio. Those of the privates who had some means, like John Harmon, put up at the various hotels, taverns and boarding houses. They were mostly hot blooded young men who chafed at the discomforts of camp life and demanded to be led against the enemy at once. Several times the order to cross the river was given and countermanded, and the discontent became so great that over half of them left the ranks. The movement was on the point of going to pieces when the officers and men held a meeting at the camp on the evening of December 2, 1838. At the meeting Gen. A. T. McReynolds, now of Grand Rapids was present. Gen. Bierce strove to pacify them, and made a strong speech. He said that large reinforcements were daily arriving at Brest and would soon come to Detroit.

Brest, now called Stony Creek, is in Monroe county, thirty-five miles southeast of Detroit, on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad. It was then a place of great pretensions, and had a few hundred inhabitants and a wild cat bank.

Gen. Bierce added that with these recruits, and the force in Detroit, a strong invading army could be thrown into Canada at this point, with good prospects of success, as the inhabitants would join the army by the thousand. He also called their attention to the fact that the Brady guards were on the alert, and that the authorities on this side, although sympathizing with the cause, would suppress and disarm any small body of men who violated the neutrality act.

All this excellent advice, however, was thrown away. From the ranks of his listeners came the words "traitor" and "coward."

One person, said to be the patriot general, E. J. Roberts, of Detroit, who was a lawyer and justice of the peace and publisher of a masonic newspaper called the Craftsman, said:

"If you will follow me, I will lead you."

This naturally raised Bierce's pride, and he said, impulsively: "Now, men, if you are bound to sacrifice yourselves, I will lead the way."

A number shouted their acquiescence, but many kept ominously silent, Next night the patriots crossed the river.

LETTER FROM DR. F. B. MC CORMICK.

South Pelee P. O., Pelee Island, Ontario,
May 22, 1890.

To the Editor:

For the information of your readers I enclose a map on a small scale of Pelee island and a description of the localities and movements in the battle. The single dotted line shows the British advance from the main land to the island and southward to Mosquito bay. From that point the double dotted line shows the line of the patriot retreat to Kelly's island.

No. 1 is the old McCormick homestead. Within a few rods of this my father led the advance on shore, a little to the north, over some low limestone hills.

The single dotted line on the west of the island shows the route taken by the detachment of the Thirty-second British regiment (96 all told) to intercept the patriots on the ice on Mosquito bay. The patriots were in full retreat toward Ohio, when stopped by the ninety-six regulars and fourteen mounted Canadian militia.

No. 2 is the battle ground on Mosquito bay.

No. 3 is the old Fox house, where the rebels were stopping in considerable force until joined by the main body from the north end of the island.

The captain who lead the rebels was named Hoadly, a gallant southerner, who had his negro servants with him. He lies buried in the sand hills near which he fell. Mr. Peter Fox, of North Bass island, Ottawa county, O., who was a lad of fifteen at the time, told me, not over three weeks ago, that Hoadly led the charge and was always in command on the island. Mr. Fox says the battle was fought not over a mile from his home. Your western Michigan friend has been romancing.

F. B. McCormick.

THE YPSILANTI CANNON.

The Ypsilanti Sentinel notices the fact of the Ypsilanti gun stolen from that city by the patriots. It appears that it was taken to Gibraltar, and not to Fighting island, as related in last week's issue. The following is the Sentinel's correction: "In the account of the patriot war, now running in the Detroit Sunday News, mention is made of a nine-pounder iron gun captured on the schooner Ann. That gun belonged to Ypsilanti. It was stolen by Charles Ellis, and some other sympa-

thizers, and carried to the patriots on a sleigh. It was used to arm the schooner and captured as related. One of the patriots from this place by the name of Barnum, was captured and sent to Van Dieman's Land, where he was held to hard labor for several years, but finally returned, and subsequently removed we know not where.

CHAPTER V.

BURNING OF THE WINDSOR BARRACKS AND FIRING OF THE STEAMER THAMES—DISASTROUS DEFEAT OF THE PATRIOTS, FOLLOWED BY THE MASSACRE OF SEVERAL PRISONERS—SHOOTING SOME IN COLD BLOOD AND GIVING OTHERS A CHANCE TO RUN FOR THEIR LIVES—THE CRUELTY OF COL. PRINCE—A SHREWD WOMAN WHO SAVED NATHAN H. TOLE'S LIFE.

On the evening of December 3, 1838, the steamer Champlain was anchored in the Detroit river at Detroit. She was boarded and seized by the patriots by a previous arrangement with the owner and captain. The engineer and crew were locked in their rooms, and the patriots then manned the steamer with a crew selected out of their own ranks. The word was passed around quietly to all the fighting patriots who were quartered at their several hotels and boarding houses. The boat came to the dock at the foot of Rivard street, and at 2 a. m. on the morning of the fourth, 135 armed patriots went on board. The river was full of floating ice, and it took a full hour to cross the river. The landing was made at the Pelitte farm, three and one-half miles above the present Windsor & Detroit ferry dock at Windsor. It was a dark night, but a light fall of snow on the ground made everything plainly discernible. The engineer and crew were set free, and the troop disembarked about 100 yards above a small creek that flows into the Detroit river, just opposite the center of Belle Isle (then called Hog island), where Richard Storrs Willis' country seat, Inselruhe, was afterward built. The point was doubtless chosen because the channel bank is only twenty feet distant from the beach. Some of the patriots wakened up old Farmer Pelitte, demanded something to eat and behaved rather rudely, but committed no violence.

MARCHING TO THEIR FATE.

Gen. Bierce then ordered the engineer, officers and deck hands of the steamer to move her away, and said to his men, "We have no back doors now, boys; we must conquer or die!"

The little band then marched down the river on Sandwich street, which is the river road, to the town of Windsor, at that time a hamlet containing not more than 300 souls.

There was a building used as a barracks on the road facing the river on the present site of the town hall. It was a frame structure and was occupied by a guard of about twenty men. The bulk of the Canadian troops, about 500 men, were at Sandwich and there was a regiment of regular British troops at Amherstburg, two and sixteen miles below, respectively, on the river. Word had been brought from Detroit over the river of the invasion, by a Canadian sympathizer, and the detachment at the barracks fired on the patriots from the windows. The fire was returned, and Gen. Bierce ordered the barracks to be set on fire.

THE BARRACKS BURNED.

This was soon done, and in a short time the flames illumined the country for miles around. The soldiers inside tried to escape, and some of them were shot down as they emerged from the building. Others were roasted to death.

When Bierce reached the center of the town he issued an address to his soldiers, and also a proclamation to the citizens of Canada. The latter was signed by Wm. Lount, his military secretary, a son of the patriot Lount who was hanged in Toronto a few months previous.

DOUGALL'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

The late James Dougall, a leading merchant of the town, who died about two years ago, was awakened by the discharge of firearms. Being apprehensive of the attack, he had kept his horse saddled in his stable all night. He dressed himself hastily and ran to his store, took some $30,000 in large bills from his safe, returned to the house for his gun, and started down to Sandwich on foot.

Meanwhile the patriots were not idle. The little army was divided into three detachments. One was under Col. Cornelius Cunningham, who was afterward hanged at London, U. C. Another was under Brig. Gen. Wm. Putnam (already alluded to in connection with the killing of Sergt. Carey), and the reserve, consisting of twenty-five men, was under Col. Salathiel Coffinberry. They proceeded to what was then the

western extremity of the town, and took up positions on the Baby farm, a few rods back from the river.

THE BURNING OF THE THAMES.

The steamer Thames, owned by Duncan McGregor, of Chatham, was lying at John Van Allen's dock, which was 280 feet above the burning barracks. The dock and warehouse have since disappeared, the entire river bank at that place being now graded down and forms the lower yard of the Great Western division of the Grand Trunk railway.

The cry of "Remember the Caroline" was raised, and by Gen. Bierce's order the boat was fired. John Harmon, who was acting as aide to Bierce, with three others, brought down brands from the burning barracks and set the steamer on fire.

Gen. Bierce, with John Harmon and a few men who formed his body guard, then went down the river road about 600 yards to a point where Church street now intersects it. At that time the river road was the sole highway between Sandwich and Windsor. There was no highway leading south into the back county, except private farm roads, until the McDougall road, above the barracks, was reached.

DEATH OF SURGEON HUME.

The first Canadian military arrivals in Windsor from Sandwich were two horsemen. They were Dr. John J. Hume, the assistant surgeon of the troops, and Mr. Morse the commissary. Surgeon Hume had been sitting up nearly all night at Col. Prince's house in Sandwich, attending a sick lady. Some accounts state that they came on an informal reconnoitering expedition of their own, although the sounds of firearms may have induced the doctor to come for the purpose of giving professional assistance to men who might have been wounded.

Dr. Hume was a large, fine looking man of middle age. He wore a sword at his side, and rode a fine horse. The small party of invaders who acted as a body guard to Gen. Bierce halted the pair and ordered them to surrender. The doctor was a high spirited man and he promptly answered:

"Who to?"

"To the patriots," was the reply.

"No, I won't surrender to d——d rebels," was the reckless rejoinder.

Two or three shots were fired at him. Morse, with his hat perforated by a bullet, retreated down the road. The doctor got off his horse, which immediately galloped after Morse. The doctor ran about

100 feet in the same direction. Several shots were fired at him, but he was not hit.

He turned into the house of Thomas Cole, an upholsterer, on the road, where he first tried to secrete himself in the cellar. He was followed and his retreat discovered, but he defended himself vigorously with his sword. He then ran to the back part of the lot and entered an outhouse, still fighting with his assailants. He was then shot in the right breast, and finally killed with an ax. His sword was handed to Gen. Bierce. The killing took place about 450 yards west of the burning barracks, and the body was partially devoured by hogs before being discovered. The Widow Cole, in after years, with the natural guarrulity of age, often told the above account of Hume's terrible death. John Turk, the well known Windsor real estate dealer, when a boy, has heard the story from the widow's lips.

THE NEWS AT SANDWICH.

Lieut. Arthur Rankin, afterward colonel and M. P. P. from Essex county from 1854 to 1867, and father of McKee Rankin, the celebrated actor, and George Rankin, dramatic author, of Windsor, was officer of the night at the Sandwich barracks, two miles below. He had retired to his bed about 3 a. m. He was wakened up at his lodging by two mounted men belonging to Capt. Duncan Grant's cavalry regiment, who brought the news of the invasion at Windsor. He quickly mustered his company of sixty men together, and brought them to the house of the captain, John F. Sparks, at the upper end of the village. The captain, an English gentleman who had served in the East Indies, was very sick with ague, but answered the summons at his door. He was as pale as a ghost and very feeble, but he promptly ordered Rankin to double quick his men to Windsor. "I will join you before you get there," he said. Sure enough, he joined his company on a horse before they had proceeded a mile. James Dougall had met the company before that time and turned back with them. Morse, the commissary, and Dr. Hume's horse passed them shortly afterward.

THE BATTLEFIELD.

The Baby farm, in the town of Windsor, like all the old French farms in this region, fronts on the river. It is a strip of land 1,152 feet wide, and runs back about two miles. Its western line at the river is River street and the eastern line is Pellissier street. Church street, *Dougall avenue and Victoria* street run through the farm north and

south, within the corporate limits of the town. The Baby homestead was then occupied by Francoise Baby, uncle of Lieut. W. L. Baby. It is a large, comfortable two-story brick residence and has recently been converted into a double dwelling house. It formerly fronted on Sandwich street, and stands back about 150 feet from that thoroughfare, and at that time commanded an unobstructed view of the river. It stands directly in rear of the Edmund Baby block, on Sandwich street. When Pitts street was opened across its rear, the front was changed to that street. The orchard where the fight took place was on the west side of the house and extended down the river to the west line of the farm on River street. The limits of the orchard may be generally described as bounded by Sandwich street, River street, Chatham street and Dougall avenue. It was about 50 acres in extent, and contained many hundred apple and French pear trees. It is now all covered by residence and business property.

PATRIOT AND LOYALIST MEET.

Capt. Sparks arrived in Windsor about 7 a. m. His pickets penetrated the orchard and discovered the patriots drawn up in three bodies. The troops under Harvell and Putnam were in two lines, a short distance apart, near a fence under some pear trees. They opened an irregular fire at the advancing Canadians, but aimed too high, and the bullets passed overhead. Sparks ordered his men to fire, and a volley laid two or three patriots low. The rest immediately retreated. The red coats worn by the militia made the patriots think they were British regulars, and this doubtless added to their scare. The scene of this conflict was a little north of the intersection of Church and Pitt streets, about the line of the alley. The patriots faced to the north and the loyalists to the south.

HARVELL AND PUTNAM FALL.

Col. Harvell, the "Big Kentuckian," as he was called, bore the standard of the Canadian provisional government. He was over six feet in height, of massive build and dark complexion, with a handsome countenance and resolute eye, and wore his hair long. He tried in vain to rally his troops.

James Dougall, who had used his shot gun effectively in the fray, cried out: "A hundred dollars to the man who shoots the standard bearer!"

Several men fired at Harvell, and Pierre Marantette of Sandwich, a

member of Sharp's company and a gunsmith by trade, hit him. At least Col. Prince's report to Col. Maitland gives him that credit.

At this moment Lieut. Rankin ran forward in advance of his own company, thereby exposing himself to being shot by his own men. Harvell was wounded and staggered, but still held aloft the flag. As Rankin approached, sword in hand, he fell, the folds of the flag being partly under him, and on it flowed streams of blood from two gaping wounds in his body. Rankin grasped the flag and tried to drag it out from under the wounded man, whose face expressed a variety of emotions, in which anger and disappointment strove for mastery. At this moment, before Rankin could interfere, two of his company ran up and thrust their bayonets into Harvell's body, who gave a convulsive start and then expired.

The story related by Theller in "Canada in 1837-8," and repeated by John Harmon, is that Harvell refused to surrender, wrapped himself up in the flag, drew a large bowie knife and defied his assailants. But Col. Rankin and Mr. Dougall pronounce this story untrue.

A DISASTROUS ROUT.

Gen. Putnam retreated with the rest in a southeasterly direction several hundred yards, his men turning and firing as they went. Putnam climbed a fence, and on reaching the ground on the other side was shot in the back of the head and fell dead. Coffinberry attempted to rally his men about what is now the corner of Chatham street and Victoria avenue, but the loyalists pressed them close, and at this place the majority of the patriots were killed. The bodies were buried afterward in several trenches where the Presbyterian church now stands.

Gen. Putnam was generally esteemed. He was well known in Detroit, where he organized a Hunters' lodge and initiated hundreds of citizens. Ben Briscoe, Sr., of this city, was initiated by him as a full-fledged patriot. He was 45 years of age and had a wife and eight children on his farm near Dorchester, Middlesex county, Upper Canada.

Some time afterward, when the relatives of Harvell and Putnam came to Windsor to find the bodies, no one remembered the place where they were buried, and they both fill unmarked and unknown graves.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

Many of the fugitives fled southward into the interior. Others, including Gen. Bierce, Col. Coffinberry and John Harmon, fled to where the steamer had landed, over three miles above. Here they

released their 18 prisoners, principally inhabitants of the town. A small body of volunteers from the interior of Essex county, under Major Fox, arrived on the scene and followed in pursuit of the fugitives. Lieut. Rankin and some of his men went to the burning steamer, and seeing that there was no hope of saving her, took on shore a small sideboard. It is still preserved at his residence, "Thornfield," on the river road, between Windsor and Sandwich, and is an interesting souvenir of the battle.

COL. JOHN PRINCE,

who lived in Sandwich and was in immediate command of the troops, arrived on the scene about 9:30 a. m., after the patriots were routed. He joined the officers on the Baby farm, at a point about three-quarters of a mile south of the battlefield. He wore a wolfskin cap, a velveteen shooting coat, leather leggings and carried a shotgun in his hand. One of the prisoners, a German, who had his clothing spattered with lime and was believed to be a hod carrier or plasterer, was brought to him.

"Here, shoot this man," he cried.

The man fell on his knees and begged for mercy in broken English. He was riddled by a volley of bullets and fell a corpse.

Prince then said that he expected another attack at Sandwich, and ordered all troops to proceed there at once. Capt. Sparks, Col. James Askin and his son, Lieut. Chas. D. Askin, Lieut. Rankin and Mr. Dougall advanced the opinion that the only force threatening that part of the frontier, was fleeing before them, but Prince would not listen, and the troops returned to Sandwich. He had evidently been deceived by false intelligence. Had they moved in pursuit it is altogether probable that every one of the patriots would have been captured.

Arrived at Sandwich, Lieut. Rankin and Mr. Dougall again accosted Prince and said they believed that the country east of Windsor was still in possession of the rebels. Rankin offered to take thirty men and go up and attack them, but his offer was declined.

REGULARS TO THE FRONT.

The Thirty-fourth British regiment, under Col. (afterwards Lord) Airey was lying at Amherstburg. The news did not reach there for several hours. But about 1:30 p. m. a force from that regiment dashed into Sandwich. This consisted of a company under Capt. Broderick on wagons, a six-pound cannon and artillerymen under Lieut. Dionysius

Airey, brother of the colonel, and twenty mounted Indians from the reservation near Amherstburg, under Capt. Ironsides, of the Indian department.

These troops did not stop at Sandwich, but drove through the village in hot haste to Windsor. Mr. Dougall got into the artillery wagon and went with them. Prince then proceeded toward Windsor with his command, about 400 volunteers and militia, including Capt. Sparks' company with Lieut. Rankin in command. Mr. Sparks was so feeble that he had to return to his bed.

The British troops under Broderick arrived in Windsor about 2 p. m. and proceeded past the town to where the Champlain had landed. Here another patriot was taken prisoner by Mr. White, father of Sol. White, M. P. P., who handed him over to Broderick. No other patriots could be seen. When Col. Prince saw the prisoner he had him stood up against a fence where he was riddled with bullets. Capt. Broderick remonstrated indignantly at this butchery, but Prince was obdurate. He also ordered a militia officer, named Chas. Anderson, to go to Sandwich and have two prisoners shot which had been sent there by Broderick under guard.

THE POOR PATRIOTS.

Gen. Bierce, Gen. Coffinberry, John Harmon, Col. Washington Case and several more went up to the place where they landed and signaled to the steamer Erie, which had the Brady Guards on board and was patrolling the river. But the officers on the boat paid no attention to the appeal. They then looked for a means of escape. All the residents on the river banks, in those days, had skiffs or canoes in front of their farms, and they procured several and paddled across, some using the butts of their guns as paddles.

The troubles of the unfortunate remnant were, however, not over yet. Lieut. Airey came up, unlimbered his gun in the road and fired several round shot at the canoes and their occupants. One of the balls struck Capt. James B. Armstrong, of Port Huron, and nearly cut off his arm. While the cannon was playing, the steamer Erie steamed up the river, and the Brady Guards

FIRED AT THE FUGITIVES

in the stream as they disembarked on Belle Isle. One bullet struck the gun held by John Harmon, who was standing on the ice about two yards from the bank. The discomfitted patriots were arrested and

taken on board the steamer. Maj. Payne, a U. S. officer, questioned Harmon closely, asking him who burned the barracks and the steamer; what he was doing in Canada, etc. But Harmon realized the danger of being too communicative at that moment and replied that he had been on Hog island, which being a part of the United States he had a perfect right to visit if he desired; and made other evasive answers.

HOME AGAIN.

The patriot remnant were dismissed when the boat arrived at the dock. Capt. Ben. Woodworth, the landlord of the Steamboat hotel, grasped Harmon by the hand and invited him to be his guest at the hotel. That night a crowded meeting was held at the old city hall, and addresses were delivered by Col. James L. Giles, Gen. E. J. Roberts, Gen. Theller (who had returned home from captivity that day) and other Detroit patriots. There were some eloquent speeches and a series of resolutions were adopted, strongly denouncing the United States authorities for firing on the patriots.

Armstrong was taken to the basement office of Dr. E. Hurd, which then stood on the present site of McElroy's dry goods store, at the northwest corner of Woodward avenue and Congress street, where the mangled arm was amputated and the stump dressed. Chloroform was not used in those days, but Armstrong did not need any anæsthetic. He was a man of iron nerve and resolution. When his bleeding arm was cut off he raised it from the table with his other hand, swung it around his head, and exclaimed:

"Hurrah for the patriots! I am willing to lose another arm for the cause!"

He was afterwards deputy sheriff in St. Clair county and sheriff of Sanilac county, in this State, in 1855–6. His widow and two sons, Mott and George Armstrong, now live at Bad Axe, Mich, and his daughter, Mrs. Meddaugh, lives at Sand Beach. One of his brothers still lives near London, Ontario.

MORE PATRIOTS SHOT.

Over the river the curtain had not yet descended on the bloody drama. Col. Prince was maddened to frenzy when he saw the dead body of Surgeon Hume and the others who had fallen at the hands of the patriots. At one time he resolved to show no quarter to any prisoner.

A ghastly sight was the charred corpses of five militiamen which were brought out of the burned guard house and laid in front.

It is said that none of the Canadian troops were killed in the battle proper. A French Canadian named Nantais, who followed in pursuit of the retreating patriots, was shot and killed. A colored barber named Mills, from whose house the burning brands were taken by the patriots to fire the barracks, imprudently huzzaed for the British and was shot dead.

HORRID SCENES.

Alexander H. Askin, of Strabane, a country seat on the bank of the river, opposite the foot of Belle Isle, was then seven years of age, and living with his relatives at Sandwich. He is a cousin of ex-Register John A. Askin, of that town. He witnessed a scene that afternoon which he will remember till he dies. A patriot who had been captured at Windsor was being taken through Sandwich to the barracks under guard of a file of men. The prisoner was a good looking young man, wearing a velvet coat. Lieut. Charles Anderson, who had been sent down by Col. Prince, rode up in hot haste and said:

"Stop! this man is to be shot by Col. Prince's orders."

The squad stopped. Anderson dismounted, seized the prisoner and pushed him backward.

The man held up both hands and exclaimed:

"For God's sake, let me speak!"

"No," said Anderson, "run for your life!"

The prisoner turned and ran across the field away from the river. The militiamen fired several shots at him but he was not hit. The fugitive then ran swiftly for about 100 yards, and sought shelter among some hay stacks. There he was followed and killed.

Another prisoner, guarded by another file of men, was ordered by Anderson to run for his life. He was followed and shot near the old burying ground, and his bleeding corpse thrown over the fence on the graves.

Anderson, who is still living, was afterward appointed deputy receiver general of Canada. He married a daughter of Col. Elliott, of Sandwich, an eloquent and able lawyer.

AFTER CLAPS.

Col. Prince's wrath was not appeased by the shooting of the four prisoners, and he ordered some seven captured prisoners, who were ranged in front of the mouldering barracks, to be shot also. A num-

ber of influential citizens, including Robert Mercer, magistrate; Charles Elliott, afterward judge; Joseph Woods, justice of the peace, and subsequently M. P. P.; Rev. Mr. Johnson, rector of Sandwich, and others, pleaded with Prince, some of them quite indignantly, that the prisoners' lives be spared. Prince, with great reluctance, and after much expostulation, acceded to their request. Afterward thirteen gentlemen published a circular, denouncing the shooting of the four persons without a trial as inhuman murders. Col. Prince resented this by challenging the whole thirteen. It was the fashion in those days for gentlemen, especially soldiers, to settle their differences by the code duello. Only one, Mr. Woods, accepted the challenge, and the principals met on the field of honor in a clump of woods half a mile back of Sandwich. Allen Cameron, an officer in the same company with Lieut. Rankin, was Woods' second, and Capt. Rudyard acted for Prince. At the first exchange of shots Mr. Woods was painfully wounded in the jaw.

A SICKENING NARRATIVE.

These thirteen gentlemen also drew up a narrative of the shooting of the prisoners, which was published in the Detroit Journal, which latter paper was a strong anti-patriot sheet. The members of the committee were said to be all tories or conservatives, and some of them were present at the action in Windsor. The narrative relates:

"Before leaving the field Adjt. Cheeseman, of the Second Essex regiment brought up a prisoner whom he had taken. He surrendered him to Col. Prince, who ordered him to be immediately shot on the spot, and it was done accordingly.

"Another prisoner, who was wounded, was brought to Sandwich two hours after the engagement, and was ordered shot. It was afterward proposed to let him 'run for his life.' A dozen muskets were leveled for his execution. At this moment Col. Wm. Elliott of the Second Essex regiment, exclaimed: 'D——n you, you cowardly rascals; are you going to murder your prisoner?' This exclamation for one instant retarded the fire of the party, but on the next the prisoner was brought to the ground. He sprang again to his feet and ran round the corner of the fence, where he was met and shot through the head. His name was Bennett, a Canadian, and resided in the London district. It is to be regretted that this painful affair took place in our most public street, and in the presence of several ladies and children.

"Another prisoner named Dennison, also wounded and unarmed, was brought in during the morning. Charles Elliott, Esq., who was pres-

ent when Col. Prince ordered this man to be shot, entreated that he might be reserved to be dealt with according to the laws of the country, but Col. Prince's reply was, 'D——n the rascal, shoot him!' and it was done.

"When Col. Prince reached Windsor he was informed that one of the brigands was lying wounded at the house of Wm. Johnston. The man, whose leg was shattered by a musket ball, had been found by Francoise Baby, Esq., the former representative of Essex, and by his order was removed to Mr. Johnston's house, saying he would send surgical assistance. Col. Prince gave the order for his execution, and he was dragged out of the house and shot accordingly.

"At this time the regulars and Indians under Capt. Broderick were two or three miles in advance of Col. Prince's forces, and the enemy had escaped from Windsor. A prisoner was taken, who, presuming that he had fallen into the hands of Prince or his troops, made an earnest appeal for mercy. Capt. Broderick, a regular officer, replied: 'You have fallen into the hands of a British officer.' Capt. Broderick with his regulars, finding that nothing further was to be done, commenced his return to Sandwich, leaving his prisoner in charge of a dragoon. Prince afterward fell in with this prisoner, ordered him taken from his guard and shot, which was done.

"The mounted Indians who were sent into the woods brought in seven prisoners. When they brought them out a cry was raised 'bayonet them!'

"'What,' said Martin, one of the Indian braves, 'No, we are Christians; we will not murder them.'

"When these men were delivered to Col. Prince, he had them placed in a wagon, and when it reached an open spot opposite the barracks, he commanded the prisoners to be taken out of the wagon and shot.

"At this critical moment Charles Elliott, Robert Mercer, Rev. Mr. Johnson and Samuel James rushed forward and entreated Col. Prince not to commit murder by shooting the prisoners, but begged him to leave them to the laws of the country. In making this appeal Mr. James made use of this emphatic language:

"'For God's sake, do not let a white man murder what an Indian has spared!'

"Col. Prince yielded, remarking that he would hold Mr. Elliott responsible for his interference, as his (Col. Prince's) orders were to destroy them all."

COL. PRINCE COURT MARTIALED.

Mainly through Capt. Broderick's influence, a military court of inquiry was appointed to examine the conduct of Prince. The court consisted of three field officers, of the regular service and a lieutenant colonel and two majors of the militia. After a protracted examination the court made a cautious report, practically exonerating Prince. The findings of the court became a subject of discussion in both houses of the British parliament. Lord Brougham and Hume severely censured Prince, and he was defended by others.

In his answer to Lord Brougham the duke of Wellington said: "My Lords, I have already drawn your attention to this subject. I stated the probability, the certainty, that we must come in Canada to a system of retaliation—that if the war in that country were not stopped, we must come to a system of warfare not only more barbarous than any occurring in modern times, but unequaled in the history of the world. [Hear.] I tell your lordships that there is such a system going on as I cannot conceal my opinion that it is a disgrace to this country to permit its continuance. [Hear, hear.] My lords, if her Majesty has not the power to protect loyal subjects on the Canadian frontier, we ought to abandon the colony altogether and withdraw from the country. There are, I know, persons who recommend our abandonment of the colony for far different reasons. I do not coincide in those opinions. I think it is desirable we should retain that colony. Measures are being taken by another nation to deprive us of Canada, and for that reason our honor is involved in preserving it. You must either have your operations carried on by the regular army or you must abandon the country. [Hear, hear.] If you do not employ regular troops the war will be carried on after the manner of a civil war, and the same horrors will be the consequence."

Lord Glenelg said it would be impossible to protect so extensive a frontier with regular troops. The force in Canada was very large.

This ended the debate. The "Iron Duke," it will be seen, did not attempt to openly defend Prince's conduct, but deftly struck the cords of national pride and jealousy by saying that the United States wished to acquire Canada. He also touched the pocket nerve by alluding to the tremendous expense that would be entailed on the British treasury by protecting the Canadian border with regular troops.

These two considerations probably saved Col. Prince from a vote of censure by the British legislature.

"IT WAS DONE ACCORDINGLY."

In Prince's official report of the battle he says: "Of the brigands and pirates, twenty-one were killed, besides four who were brought in at the close and immediately after the engagement, all of whom I ordered shot upon the spot, and it was done accordingly."

"It is sufficient to say," says Lindsay, the Canadian historian, and the author of the "Life and Times of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie," "that the general verdict of mankind has not held Col. Prince excused for the slaughter of these men without even the form of trial."

One report states that sixty-five patriots were captured. Some of the fugitives escaped up the shores of Lake St. Clair, where they were hidden in the houses of sympathetic Irish farmers, who afterward aided them to escape on the ice to the American shore. A number of the captured were tried and transported to Van Dieman's Land, and a few to the Bermuda islands.

MASONS MEMORY.

Wm. Mason, of Windsor, who was then aged 16, and living with his parents on Sandwich street, in a house where F. S. Stearns & Co.'s laboratory now stands, witnessed some of the fighting. He was around among a crowd of patriots who were gathered in front of his father's house. They had arrested a baker's apprentice named Hurst and were treating him roughly. "I sat on a fence with another boy," said Mason, last January. "The fighting was only a short distance away, not more than 150 yards, and the bullets whistled around us. I didn't mind it at the time, but after the fighting was over, I became scared almost to death. I saw Hume's body after the battle. He had a big bullet hole in his right breast, and his arm was terribly hacked with an ax."

SHELDON'S EXILE.

In John Harmon's account of the battle of Windsor, published in the Free Press in 1884, he alludes to Chauncey Sheldon, a farmer residing in Macomb county, who came to Detroit with a load of wheat. Sheldon was a free and easy blade, and having indulged in stimulants around town, he joined the expedition for the fun of the thing and crossed the river on the steamer. He was taken prisoner after the battle, and with several prisoners was brought up to the barracks where

Col. Prince ordered them all shot. He was placed in front of a file of soldiers and ordered to turn his back. "I shall turn my back to no redcoat," he said, at the same time giving a Masonic sign to the officer in charge of the firing squad. The expostulation of Mr. Wood and others began at this time, and the shooting was postponed. Sheldon was transported to Van Dieman's Land for seven years. At the expiration of the sentence he returned to Detroit. In Harmon's account it is stated that he found his wife married to another man, but this was a mistake, as his wife had died during his absence. Mr. Harmon procured him a situation as lighthouse keeper at Tawas bay. He afterwards went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Daniel Duncan, at Utica, Mich., and tended bar for Landlord Benjamin. He died at the house of Mr. Duncan's son, in Genesee county, Mich., about 1855.

"YOU OUGHT TO KNOW."

One of the prisoners shot is believed to have been a Canadian resident of Chatham. A few years after the battle Col. Prince visited Chatham and put up at a hotel kept by a buxom widow named Hamilton. With a soldier's eye for a handsome woman, he entered into conversation with her.

"What is your name?" he asked.

"Hamilton," she replied, curtly.

"A good name," said Prince, politely. "Where is your husband?"

"You ought to know," answered the widow with compressed lips.

"How should I know, madam?" he inquired in surprise.

"I have been told you had him shot at Windsor."

The conversation ended at this point.

WAS HE LYING?

Maj. Fred Kuehle, a prominent German citizen of Detroit, afterward member of the board of public works and a Mexican veteran, kept at that time a grocery store on the north side of Atwater street, between Antoine and Hastings streets. His next door neighbors were a family named Grant, the head of which was a six-foot, powerfully built half-breed, with a swaggering, self-asserting manner. Grant fought with the patriots, and when he returned home he openly boasted that he had killed Surgeon Hume.

SAVED BY A WOMAN.

One of the patriots who fought in the battle of Windsor was Nathan H. Toles, a young man from Buffalo, who was a member of the Brady

Guards and had lived in Detroit for several years previous to 1838. He was in partnership with Orville S. Allen, father of William and Orville Allen of this city. Toles & Allen had a painting and paper hanging shop on Woodward avenue, near the dock. When the patriots were whipped and scattered by the Canadian militia, Toles fled with the rest, but turned his steps into the back country south of Windsor. He ran through the woods for fifteen or twenty miles, and, night overtaking him, he slept a little under a tree. When the day broke he resumed his flight, and finally came to a road. He saw a two-wheeled wagon approaching and he hid himself at first, but seeing that its only occupant was a woman he stepped into the road.

"Will you be kind enough to tell me the way to Windsor, madam?" he said.

The woman stopped her cart and looked at him with a smile.

"You don't want to go to Windsor, sir."

"And why not?" said Toles.

"Because you are a patriot. You have run away from Windsor. And you have been sleeping in the woods. Your back is all covered with leaves,"

Toles, in utter surprise and bewilderment at the woman's perspicuity, stammered an inarticulate denial.

"Never mind," said the farmer's wife, "its all right. I'm a patriot myself, and so is my husband, although he is a soldier and with the army down there. I'm going to Windsor to see whether he's dead or alive. I hear you patriots got beat as usual, didn't you?"

Toles "acknowledged the maize."

The woman then directed him to go southward to her house, which she described, and instructed him to go into the barn, cover himself in the hay, and never move till night, and she would then come to him and devise means of escape. Toles thankfully followed her instructions, and being cold, tired and weary, went to sleep in the barn. About midnight he was awakened by a low, whispered inquiry, "Are you here?" He answered in the affirmative, and the woman then said:

"Here is something to eat. My husband has come home, and he brought some more soldiers with him. If they see you they will take you to Windsor and shoot you. Col. Prince shot a lot of the prisoners today. So you lie quiet, and don't move hand or foot, and I'll see what I can do for you."

Toles ate the food and thankfully followed her instructions. Three or four nights afterward she came to him at night, and handing over

a bundle of clothing, bade him dress himself. He did so, and found himself transmogrified into a farmer. She then drove him to Windsor, crossed over on the ferry, and bid him farewell about Jefferson avenue.

He learned from her that she had come to Detroit and procured the money for the clothes from E. J. Roberts, A. T. McReynolds and other friends of the patriot cause.

Toles never forgot the woman's kindness and gave testimonials of his gratitude in after years. He died in this city about 1870. His surviving children are Edward W. Toles and Mrs. Lucy L. Knapp, of this city; Wm. W. Toles, of Plymouth, in this county, and Frank H. Toles, of Grand Rapids.

CHAPTER VI.

CONCLUSION OF THE PATRIOT WAR—SURGEON HUME'S GRAVESTONE IN THE SANDWICH CHURCHYARD—MACKENZIE'S AFTER LIFE—REMARKABLE ADVENTURES OF BENJ. WAIT OF GRAND RAPIDS, AND THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF HIS DEVOTED WIFE IN HIS BEHALF—BIOGRAPHIES OF SOME OF THE ACTORS IN THE EFFORT TO LIGHTEN THE GOVERNMENTAL AND SOCIAL BURDENS OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

All the old citizens of Detroit now living witnessed the progress of the battle of Windsor. The river at this point is only 2,500 feet in width, and there being snow on the ground and few houses or buildings in Windsor to obstruct the view, the results of the fight were known before the fugitives arrived to tell the tale.

Warham Brown, at that time a little boy, lived with his father, H. H. Brown, a well-known banker. His mother was a daughter of the late Judge John W. Strong, a prominent citizen. The Browns lived in what was then called the Wendell house, a two-story building, which still stands on the north side of Jefferson avenue, about 200 feet west of Shelby street, diagonally across from the Michigan Exchange.

On the morning of the fight Mrs. Brown, who was a very beautiful woman and a belle in society, and is still living in Detroit, and her little boy were calling at the house of her father, formerly the residence of Major John Biddle, which stood about the center of the Biddle House block. It was about 9 a. m. and the barracks and the steamer Thames were still burning, and the white puffs and reports of musketry showed that the loyalists and patriots were engaged in deadly strife. The back windows commanded an excel-

lent view of the scene, and Mrs. Brown lifted her boy up in her arms to look at it.

When the mother and son returned home they found the head of the house in a serious frame of mind.

"Warham," said Mr. Brown, "my brother, your uncle George, is up stairs. I don't know what to do with him. He has committed a crime. He will have to stay in your room for a few days and you must not say a word about it to anybody."

George Huntington Brown, the brother of Mr. Brown, was a fine-looking young man of a free and easy, adventurous character. The "crime" to which his conservative brother alluded consisted in his being a participator in the battle of Windsor. He had just escaped over the river in a canoe with John Harmon, Gen. Bierce, Col. Coffinberry and the rest, and was in hiding from the United States authorities. He was smuggled out of town a few days afterward and in the spring engaged as second officer of a lake steamer. The vessel took a number of emigrants into Milwaukee that fall, and the landing was made in boats. A boat containing a number of emigrants was upset, and while they were struggling in the water George jumped out to rescue them. A drowning emigrant caught him, and they both sank to the bottom. When the bodies were recovered they were both fastened together in the embrace of death. The pockets of the emigrant contained several thousand dollars in money.

HUME'S GRAVESTONE.

The unfortunate surgeon was buried with military honors in the old churchyard at Sandwich. On his tombstone may be read the indignant epitaph written by Col. Prince:

SACRED
To the Memory of
JOHN JAMES HUME, ESQRE. M. D.
Staff Assistant Surgeon
who was inhumanly murdered and his body afterwards brutally mangled by a gang of armed ruffians from the United States Styling themselves
"PATRIOTS,"
who committed this cowardly and shameful outrage on the morning of the 4th December, 1838: having intercepted the deceased while proceeding to render professional assistance to her Majesty's gallant Militia engaged at Windsor, U. C. in repelling the incursion of this rebel crew more properly styled
PIRATES.

"ON THAT DARK SCAFFOLD."

The battle of Windsor was the last engagement of the patriot war. There were some insignificant forays of patriots across the border during 1839, and several thousand Canadian troops were stationed along this frontier as late as 1844. The patriots kept up their military and political organization for several years. Maj. Wait, the hero of Point au Pelee island crossed the Niagara river several times after his return from Van Dieman's Land in 1842, to his old home on the Grand river, and organized several patriot societies. But the waning power of the Family Compact and the liberal concessions in the matter of constitutional government made by their political successors and the English government, caused the gradual extinction of the patriot cause and Canada then began to take her place among the free nations of the new world.

But the scaffold was kept busy during the remainder of 1839, and many of the patriots paid for their heroic temerity with their lives.

The following members of Van Schoultz's command at Prescott were hanged at Kingston: Col. Dorephus Abbey of Watertown, N. Y.; Col. Martin Woodruff of Salina, N. Y.; Daniel George and Sylvanus Swete of Northampton, N. H.; Jacob Peeler, of the same state; Christopher Buckley, Sylvester Lawton, Russell Phelps and Duncan Anderson.

At London Joshua Doun, Daniel Kennedy, Cornelius Cunningham, Hiram B. Lynn, Bedford Clark and —— Purley were executed. In Montreal perished on the scaffold J. N. Cardinal and M. Duquette, who led the Caughnawaga fiasco, Theophile Decoigne, Ambrose Sanguinet, Charles Sanguinet, Francois X. Hamelin, Joseph Robert, Charles Hindenlang, Chevalier De Lorimer, Pierre Remi Narbone, Amable Daunais and Francis Nudes.

TRANSPORTED.

Hundreds were transported to Van Dieman's Land and some to Bermuda. A party of 23 prisoners, among whom was John G. Parker (who was retaken after his escape from Kingston with Brophy and the others and sentenced to Van Dieman's Land for 14 years), made a successful effort for liberty when they reached Liverpool. They sent letters to Lords Brougham and Russell and Mr. Roebuck, and the latter came to Liverpool and had them released by writ of

habeas corpus. They were subsequently tried in London at the Old Bailey, set free and returned to the United States.

John G. Parker was a native of Westchester, N. H. When a young man he was a general merchant at Sackett's Harbor, N. Y. He was subsequently an extensive merchant at Kingston and Hamilton, Upper Canada. He was a man of enlarged views, a liberal in politics, and was opposed to the principles and practices of the Family Compact. He was quite popular and had an extensive acquaintance with the leading reformers in both provinces, including Papineau and Mackenzie. While he was under the ban of suspicion he wrote several letters on the political situation from Hamilton to a friend in Kingston. This became known to the government, and it is said that the knowledge was obtained by opening his letters while they were in possession of the post-office. He was the first prominent person arrested in Upper Canada, his incarceration being several weeks before the uprising at Montgomery's tavern. After being imprisoned at Kingston he made his escape, but, as before related, was recaptured. When taken on the steamboat to Quebec, he was manacled hand and foot with Benjamin Wait. After his release in England he returned to Rochester, where he was a merchant till he died in 1879, aged 83 years. One of his sons, T. A. Parker, came to Detroit in 1845, and was a leading wholesale grocer till two years ago, when he retired and was succeeded by his son, Arthur M. Parker. Another son, Edward Parker, also resides in Detroit.

MACKENZIE'S AFTER LIFE.

Mackenzie was indicted after the evacuation of Navy island by the United States grand jury at Rochester, N. Y. He was arrested and promptly gave bail, having many admirers and friends on this side of the border. He then proceeded on a stumping tour throughout the northern states. In May, 1838, he commenced the publication of Mackenzie's Gazette in New York. In February, 1839, he removed the paper to Rochester, and his trial took place at Canandaigua, N. Y., on June 20 and 21. The trial lasted a day and a half. He was his own counsel and made an able defense, but was convicted and sentenced to 18 month's imprisonment and $10 fine. During his incarceration he edited his paper, the date line of which was "In the American Bastile." After being released he went to New York, where he was given a situation in the custom house. He was subsequently a

correspondent for the New York Tribune under Horace Greeley at Washington and Albany.

After being specially pardoned by the British government he returned to Canada in 1850. His return to Toronto was signalized by a riot of the tories. His popularity in the country, however, had increased, and he was shortly afterward elected to parliament from Haldimand county, defeating George Brown. He attached himself to no party, but was generally in the opposition. He resigned in 1858. Being very poor, a public subscription was raised to buy him a homestead, which realized $10,000. Owing to some misunderstanding, only $4,550 was given him. He died in Toronto on Aug. 28, 1861, in comparative poverty. Andrew Wanless, of this city, was very well acquainted with Mackenzie and admired his pugnacity and courage. Mackenzie was not a man to attract warm personal friendship. He was rather egotistic and intolerant of any opinions except his own. He was a little man, with sandy complexion, and had an inveterate habit of whistling on all occasions when not speaking.

His surviving children are Judge James Mackenzie, of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Charles Lindsey, whose husband is the register of York county, of which Toronto is the county seat, and who is the author of a biography of Mackenzie; Miss Libbie Mackenzie, who resides at Paris, France; and Mrs. John King, wife of a prominent lawyer at Berlin, Ont.

For several years before his death he published a paper in Toronto, entitled Mackenzie's Gazette.

Mrs. Wanless has also an interesting reminiscence of Mackenzie's escape across the border. Her father, Erastus Hill, at that time resided on a farm at Ancaster, near Hamilton, U. C. On December 9, 1838, at midnight, he was awakened by a neighbor, who asked the loan of a lantern "to let him see his way." The request was granted and the lantern was returned next day. Years afterward the neighbor recalled the loan of the lantern and revealed the fact that it was used to light Mackenzie through the dark woods on his way to the United States.

NOT IN VAIN.

The war of 1837–8, although the patriots were defeated, was not fought in vain. It was a contest for freedom, which "though baffled oft, is ever won." The Family Compact and their immediate adherents, although partly composed of high bred, educated and cultivated men, of personal integrity, were really tyrants. Liberty, in its last analysis,

means that every man shall have the right to vote and to hold office. With these natural rights come a full measure of human freedom. The Family Compact and their compeers in the lower province restricted the first and practically annulled the second. Over the franchises of poor men they held, under the rude electoral system of those days, the power of the aristocrat and wealthy landowner to coerce and starve. Gifted and able men, who had legitimate aspirations for power and place, were repressed and crushed in favor of patricians of inconsiderable capacity. Lord Durham's able report to the British ministry exposed their methods and shook their power, and soon their political strength faded into decrepitude. The patriot war was the inevitable result of misgovernment, and Canada profited even by its failure.

In Governor General Lord Durham's letter to Lord Glenelg, September 25, 1838, occurs the following pregnant paragraph:

"Nor shall I regret that I have wielded these despotic powers in a manner which, as an Englishman, I am anxious to declare utterly inconsistent with the British constitution, until I learn what are the constitutional principles that remain in force when a whole constitution is suspended; what principles of the British constitution hold good in a country where the people's money is taken without the people's consent; where representative government is annihilated; where martial law has been the law of the land; and where the trial by jury exists only to defeat the ends of justice and to provoke the righteous scorn and indignation of the community. I should indeed regret the want of applicability in my own principles of government, or my own incapacity for applying them, had the precise course which I should think it imperative on me to pursue in a land of freedom and of law proved to be the only one that I could adopt in a country which *long misgovernment and sad dissensions* have brought to a condition that may fairly be described as one of *constituted anarchy*."

THE PATRIOT CELEBRATION.

On July 4, 1839, a patrict celebration was held in Ben Woodworth's Steamboat hotel, at the northwest corner of Randolph and Bates streets, Detroit, at which the officers were: President, John Biddle; vice presidents, Andrew Mack, De Garmo Jones, D. C. McKinstry, James Summers, E. D. Ellis, Reynolds Gillet and A. T. McReynolds. After the usual patriotic toasts were given, the whole of the speaking was devoted to the wrongs of Canada. The toasts of Mackenzie and Theller were responded to eloquently by the latter, and the memories

of Van Schoultz, Lount, Matthews, Putnam and Harvell were drunk in solemn silence. Dr. Theller gave "The patriot mayor and aldermen of the city," which was drunk with enthusiasm. Ald. McReynolds responded in the absence of Mayor De Garmo Jones, who had retired. He made a neat and eloquent speech and concluded by saying that there were two things of which he was proud—one that he was an Irishman, and the other that he was now and always had been a Canadian patriot.

He was followed by Luther B. Willard, afterward poor director of Detroit for many years, who gave the following remarkable toast which is said to have been founded on an occurrence after the battle of Windsor: "True French hospitality, exemplified by the Canadian, after the affair at Windsor who, when the bloodhounds were in pursuit, put the hunted patriot in bed with his wife to save him."

This toast produced long and uproarous applause, and the celebration broke up at 1 a. m.

Appended are some biographies of actors in those stirring scenes of more than fifty years ago, which will be read with interest.

A ROMANTIC LIFE—THE REMARKABLE ADVENTURES OF BENJAMIN WAIT, OF GRAND RAPIDS.

Maj. Benjamin Wait, the hero of Pelee island, who now resides at Grand Rapids, Mich., was born at Markham, Upper Canada, on Sept. 7, 1813, and is now consequently in his seventy-seventh year. He is still in the full possession of all his mental faculties, and his memory is as yet undimmed by age. In the early thirties he was proprietor of a saw mill and other valuable property on Grand river, Haldimand county, Upper Canada. He embraced the patriot cause, and was for several years a secret organizer and drilled the Canadian patriots at night in barns and out of-the-way places. His exploits at the battle of Pelee island and at the Short Hills have already been chronicled, and also his capture at the latter locality. With Magistrate Samuel Chandler, another Canadian, he was sentenced on August 11, 1838, to be executed on the 25th of the month, between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m. at the jail at the village of Niagara.

His wife, formerly Miss Maria Smith, although encumbered with an infant child, determined to save her husband's life. Setting out for Quebec, she reached there in a few days, and by her eloquent entreaties obtained a conditional pardon from Gov. Durham. The pardon had to be approved by Lieut. Gov. Sir George Arthur. The latter had gone to

Cote de Lac on a hunting expedition, and it is said that he departed in order to evade her importunities. The devoted wife followed, and he unwillingly and ungraciously submitted to the wish of his superior and signed an order for a respite for her husband and Justice Chandler. But the respite had to be presented at the Niagara jail. There was no telegraph in those days, and the distance of some 500 miles had to be traversed by wagon, horseback, stage and steamboat. She traveled back as swiftly as she could, her distress and anxiety inducing all the drivers and other persons in charge of conveyances to make their utmost speed. At Kingston she secured the friendly services of the sheriff, who accompanied her to her destination and interested himself in her behalf. The captain of the steamboat sympathized with her in this terrible exigency, and had his boat driven through the water at great danger of bursting the boiler. The boat was on Lake Ontario on the 21st of the month, and her husband's life would end at 1 p. m. The boat was driven at an unprecedented speed, arrived at Niagara at 12:30 p. m. The sheriff sprang on the dock with the reprieve in his hand while Mrs. Wait watched his progress with a white face and clasped hands. The jail was a mile away. A colored groom riding a fine horse came up to the landing. The sheriff sprang at the negro, pulled him off the horse, mounted the animal and galloped at breakneck speed toward the jail. Mrs. Wait followed in a carriage.

The feelings of the poor lady in this awful suspense may be imagined, but can hardly be described. Had the execution taken place? Would she only arrive at the jail to see her husband's strangled corpse dangling from the fatal rope? Oh, heavens! Had the sheriff arrived in time? The carriage rolled rapidly to the jail and she sprang out, and the sheriff met her at the door. "It's all right, Mrs. Wait," he cried, triumphantly. "I got here in time."

But the troubles of the Waits had only begun. The husband was transported to Van Dieman's Land. After he and Chandler and the others had gone there and were herded with the vile and vicious felons which England had been transporting there for many years, Mrs. Wait determined to secure his pardon.

She was poor and in bad health, but by her own exertions and the aid of kind friends she managed to make her way to London and laid the matter before the queen's privy council. The case was considered, but the council determined not to grant any pardons as long as the disturbances existed in Canada. In the hope that the troubles over the water would soon end, she determined to stay in London. She supported herself as a companion to a wealthy lady, and also taught a

children's school, but nevertheless persevered in her efforts to obtain her husband's release. Her health grew worse, and she then determined to join her husband at the antipodes and had secured her passage.

But just as she was about to leave, the English ministry, moved by her entreaties, decided to pardon Wait and his six companions, if their pardon was indorsed by the Canadian governor. Her route was changed and she again crossed the Atlantic and arrived at Toronto. Laying her cause before the governor, it was refused.

The indomitable and devoted wife did not relax her efforts. She laid siege to the members of the provincial parliament, and after persistent work, extending over a year, obtained the signatures of 50 members of parliament to a resolution recommending the governor to request the queen to pardon Wait and his associates. The governor, thus pressed, relented and signed the recommendation, and it was approved. In March, 1842, an order was issued by the home authorities for the absolute pardon and release of the Short Hill convicts. Wait, like the others, had been put to hard labor at Van Dieman's Land, but being an intelligent and educated man, had been allowed some privileges. His scope of liberty was confined to a certain district 12 miles square. At the time the British ministry had signed the order for his release, he had, with four others (including Chandler), perfected a plan of escape. The captain of an American whaler agreed to pick up the men at sea when the vessel was on the high seas outside of British jurisdiction. But the boat containing the fugitives was missed in the darkness, and for 13 days they were tossed about on the stormy Indian ocean, without any food except raw fish. Sometimes they sighted a vessel and did their very best to reach it, but were as often disappointed. Finally, by a miraculous chance, they sighted the very whaler they had set out to join, and were taken on board.

The vessel was bound for North America, but was caught in a tremendous hurricane and wrecked off the coast of Brazil. Fortunately the crew and passengers were all saved and made their way to Rio Janeiro. British influence was very strong in Brazil at that time, and the fugitives were careful to keep silent as to their antecedents, for fear of being arrested.

Seven months afterward Wait arrived in the United States and proceeded to Niagara Falls, N. Y., where his devoted wife was teaching school. His return had become known to the inhabitants and many old friends, and when he arrived in July, 1842, the railroad depot was crowded with thousands of people to welcome him. Many of the con-

course were affected to tears, but the majority were joyful and gave vent to their feelings in repeated huzzas.

The meeting between the husband and wife need not be described. The poor lady was worn out with sickness and anxiety. Next year she gave birth to twins and died on May 31, 1843. Their first child, Mrs. Maria Augusta Wait Campbell, is now a widow, and lives in Chicago. One of the twins died. The other, Randall B. Wait, is a lumberman at Fenton, Mich.

Mrs. Wait's surviving brothers are Mr. Edwin Smith of Port Colborne, Ont., and Mr. Thaddeus Smith of West Bay City, Mich.

Mr. Wait afterward married his present wife, Miss Rebecca H. Seeley, at Elmira, N. Y., in 1845. She was the daughter of Henry Seeley, one of the old settlers of Geneva Lake, N. Y., and is an estimable and cultured lady. Their only child, Elwood N. Wait, married Miss Mary Lincoln, at Waukegan, Ill., and died in 1886. His widow and family, consisting of two daughters and a posthumous son, live at Waukegan.

Since his return in 1842 Mr. Wait has been engaged in lumbering and real estate, and in editorial work. He founded the Northwestern Lumberman in Grand Rapids in 1873. It is now published in Chicago. He was also connected with the Lumberman's Gazette in Bay City in an editorial capacity. Business reverses have left him in straitened circumstances.

SUTHERLAND'S FORTUNES.

Gen. Thomas G. Sutherland was attracted by Mackenzie's speeches at Buffalo, after the latter had escaped from Toronto across the border. On the strength of an implied agreement with Mackenzie, he immediately advertised publicly in Buffalo for recruits for the patriot army. This action Mackenzie immediately repudiated, as it was in direct violation of the neutrality laws of the United States, and calculated to do harm to the patriot issue. Sutherland, when superseded by Handy at Sugar island, after the capture of the Ann, constituted himself a missionary for the patriot issue. He issued a lot of vainglorious orders in Detroit, in which he called for troops and gave directions how they should be raised. He then visited Oakland, Washtenaw and Lenawee counties, collected several thousand dollars, enlisted several hundred men and brought them to Detroit, where he left them to starve. After the return of Handy and Roberts and the other leaders to Detroit he was stripped of his borrowed plumage. Theller says that he misrepresented facts to Dr. Dunscombe at the American hotel (now Biddle

house), and was thrashed by Col. Case, another patriot officer. The records of the United States courts show that he was first arrested at Detroit on January 13, 1838, for violating the neutrality laws by participating in the affair at Amherstburg, and was brought before Judge Ross Wilkins. The hearing took place in the old session room, adjoining the old presbyterian church. The session room stood on the east side of Woodward avenue, between Larned and Congress streets, and adjoined the presbyterian church, on the corner of Larned street.

Sutherland at that time was about thirty-five years of age, of large stature, weighing about 220 pounds, with dark hair and complexion, and was a very fine specimen of the genus homo. He was dressed in a blue blanket coat, under which he wore a Kentucky hunting shirt with two tawdry epaulettes on his shoulders.

He pleaded his own case. E. N. Wilcox, who was in the room tells how he acted. In one part of his harangue, which was delivered with much fervor and profuse gesticulation, he said to the judge:

"When you say that I committed an illegal act, I say that you lie—"

Here Judge Wilkins looked up indignantly, when Sutherland added after a pause, "under a mistake."

This was greeted with audible smiles by the audience, in which the judge joined, Sutherland added: "You may fine me, sir, but if you do the ladies of Detroit will sell their jewelry to pay it." The judge held that the evidence was insufficient to convict, and thereupon discharged him. Mr. Wilkins, as before related, himself held a commission as colonel in the patriot army at the time the Ann was captured.

Four days after the Ann was captured Sutherland was arrested in Detroit on a warrant issued by the United States court for the northern district of New York, for complicity in the Navy island affair, and Curtis Emerson, a wealthy and eccentric land speculator and man about town, signed a $5,000 bail bond for his appearance before the New York court. A month later, when Sutherland was making arrangements to join the invasion from Fighting island, Emerson heard of it, and on February 17, eight days before the battle, surrendered him to the court. Sutherland, however, was not without friends, and Daniel B. Cole went on his bond the same day. On March 2, Cole in turn was also released from his bond, and Sutherland was captured by Col. Prince on the ice in the Detroit river the next day. In June next he was again indicted by the Detroit grand jury for his participation in the attack of the Ann on Amherstburg, but when the warrant for his arrest was issued he was a prisoner in Canada.

E. A. Theller, Donald McLeod, Stephen G. Brophy, Wm. W. Dodge, and Thomas J. Sutherland, were indicted in Detroit on the same day, June 28, 1838. Theller, after his captivity in Quebec, was tried in June, 1839, and discharged. The cases of Brophy and Dodge were *nolle prosequied* at that time. Sutherland was not found. The charge at the head of the warrants, which were printed, evidently because it was believed by the United States authorities that a large number would be needed, was "Setting on foot and preparing for a military expedition." In all these cases U. S. District Attorney Goodwin appeared for the government.

In the spring of 1839 Sutherland was informally pardoned and released from prison at Quebec, and with other pardoned patriot prisoners, was escorted to the border and pushed into the United States. He afterwards published at Albion, N. Y., a paper called the Sublime Patriot, in 1842, in which he advocated governmental action by the United States government in regard to the patriot prisoners in Van Dieman's Land. He also published a 12mo volume at Albany, in 1841, entitled "A letter to her majesty the queen, with letters to Lord Durham and Sir. George Arthur."

Samuel Phelps of Detroit, uncle of county treasurer Ralph Phelps, jr., remembers Sutherland well. At that time Phelps and the late James I. Mead, afterward mayor of Lansing, were fellow clerks in the general store of Charles M. Bull, next door west of the Farmers and Mechanics' bank on Jefferson avenue. Sutherland frequently came to the store and deposited or took away money which had been raised for the patriot cause in Michigan, and which Mr. Bull allowed him to keep in his safe. Mr. E. N. Wilcox, of this city, says that Sutherland was a very vain man and destitute of dignity. At the least encouragement he would take a gun and go through the manual of arms when requested to do so, even in saloons.

COL. THOMAS RADCLIFF.

Col. the Hon. Thomas Radcliff, who, as before stated, was commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces on the western frontier during the troubles of 1837–8, was a man of distinguished military record. Physically he was a veritable son of Anak, being six feet, five inches in height and weighing 210 pounds. Few men of his size could endure the hardships and fatigue of a military campaign; but in his career as a soldier in Spain, France, the United States and Canada, he was able to march and endure extremes of heat and cold with the hardiest man in

the army. He was also fond of dancing and was as light on his feet as the most agile practitioner of the art of Terpsichore. Born in Ireland in 1794, he was educated at Trinity college, Dublin, and joined the Twenty-seventh Enniskillen regiment as ensign at the age of seventeen. He served as lieutenant throughout the Peninsular war and fought in 12 pitched battles, including Salamanca, Vitoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes and Toulouse. He was also with his regiment and suffered all the terrors of the terrible retreat from Busaco to the lines of Torres Vedras. After the final defeat of the French armies, he was present at the battle of Plattsburg bay, in New York state. Returning to Europe, he arrived too late for the battle of Waterloo, but in time to enter Paris with the army of occupation. He was then only twenty-one years old.

In 1832 he bought a considerable estate in the county of Middlesex, Ont. There he founded the present village of Adelaide and wrote an extensive series of letters which, in 1837, were published in Ireland in book form, under the name "Authentic Letters From Canada."

In 1837 Mr. Radcliff was appointed by Sir John Colborne to the command of the county militia regiment. When trouble became imminent along the Detroit river, he was dispatched in command of all available troops to this section. At Chatham, the roads being almost impassable, he left his command and, with two attendants in an open boat, pressed to Sandwich through the ice filled waters of the River Thames, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit river. He arrived in time to command the troops at the capture of the schooner Ann. The mild, courteous and gentleman-like spirit for which Col. Radcliff was noted stands out in the soldier-like protection which he extended to Gen. A. E. Theller and the other prisoners from the cruelty of the raw militiamen, and forms a marked contrast to the vindictive conduct of Col. Prince on similar occasions. During the operations which followed, the 5,000 untrained militiamen under his command along the frontier were almost entirely dependent upon his foresight and ability for their provisions and accommodations, and to his energetic administration is to be attributed the suppression of the patriots.

For these services he received the public thanks of the Upper Canadian parliament, and was presented by the war department with one of the trophy guns of the Ann. At the close of the troubles he was summoned by royal writ to act as one of the legislative councilors of the province. He was afterwards much in the confidence of the government, and was, in 1841, offered the appointment of collector for

the port of Toronto. He died at Amherst island, Ont., before he could accept.

Col. Radcliff was a descendant of the ancient Saxon family of Radclyffe, of Waldstein Waters, which settled in England, A. D. 841. His father was the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, prebendary and sub-dean of St. Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, chaplain to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, chaplain of the Richmond general penitentiary, rector of St. Paul's church, rector of the parish of Clonmethon, surrogate of the consistorial church, secretary of the farming society of Ireland, and the author of several works on agriculture. He was known as "the golden prebend," on account of the number of his livings. Col. Radcliff left several sons and two daughters. Of these Stephen Radcliff, who married a daughter of the Rev. Creane, left a son, Arthur Radcliff, who is now studying in Detroit for holy orders under the tutelage of the Rev. Dr. McCarroll, of Grace church. Richard married a daughter of Hon. William Warren, member of the legislative council, and has a daughter, Miss Charlotte Radcliff, known in Detroit. Florinda Anne married Edwin Annesley Burrowes, of Kingston, Ont., a son of Rev. James Annesley Burrowes, rector of Kilanley and Castle Connor, county Sligo, Ireland, and his wife, the eldest daughter of the Rt. Rev. Joseph Stock, D. D., bishop of Waterford. Their children are Miss Katherine Burrowes and Annesley Burrowes, of Windsor, now a member of the editorial staff of the Detroit Journal. Col. Radcliff had two cousins, Thomas, an officer in the royal marines, and John, commander in the royal navy. Thomas was the father of the late Thomas Radcliff, of Detroit, at one time president of the Detroit board of trade. A granddaughter of John, Miss Margaret Edwina Hume Radcliff, was married recently at Streatham, England, strange to say, to Mr. Preston Brady, of the firm of Brady & Co., No. 7, Woodward avenue, Detroit, whose grandfather, Gen. Hugh Brady, commanded the United States troops which materially assisted Col. Thomas Radcliff by embarrassing the patriots in their several attempts to invade Canada in this section of the country.

U. S. JUDGE WILKINS.

Ross Wilkins was a native of Pittsburg, Pa., and after graduating at Carlyle college, was prosecuting attorney in Pittsburg before he was twenty-one. He was appointed territorial judge by President Jackson, and came to Michigan in 1835. He was reappointed U. S. district judge in 1837, and served till 1870, when he resigned, and died two

years afterwards, aged 72. He was a man of high judicial capacity. He was the father of the late Wm. D. Wilkins, clerk of the U. S. courts of Detroit for twenty years, and the grandfather of Chas. T. Wilkins, of Detroit, ex-assistant U. S. district attorney for this district.

J. WILKIE MOORE.

J. Wilkie Moore, who still lives in this city, was one of the militia troops called out to preserve the peace during the patriot war. He was present on the mainland at the battle of Fighting island. Mr. Moore often tells how he tried to stop a British cannon ball on the morning of the battle. "The ball came along," he said, "and struck the upper part of my right foot, tearing off the leather and badly bruising the second toe. The torn leather also removed the nail of the toe. The wound healed up afterward, but the nail never grew again." Mr. Moore sympathized with the loyalists and was engaged by Gov. Mason as a detective on the patriots, to report any threatened movements on Canada. He was United States consul at Windsor under Buchanan's administration. His wife was a sister of Mrs. Robert M. Bouchette, whose husband was a Lower Canadian patriot, who was transported to Van Dieman's Land. Bouchette afterward came back home and held a prominent position in the Canadian customs department.

GEN. LUCIUS VERUS BIERCE.

The following particulars of the life of Gen. Bierce have been kindly furnished by ex-Sheriff S. A. Lane, the accomplished historian of Summit county, Ohio:

Gen. Lucius Verus Bierce was born at Cornwall, Litchfield county, Conn., on August 4, 1801. At 15 years of age he accompanied his father to Nelson, Portage county, Ohio. He attended the Ohio medical college at Athens, and studied law. He was admitted to practice in Ohio in 1824. He was an ambitious, popular young man, and served as prosecuting attorney of Portage county, Ohio, from 1826 to 1837. In 1836 he removed from Ravenna to Akron, the latter place being made the county seat of the new county of Summit in 1840. During this time he had paid a great deal of attention to military matters and had risen to the grade of brigadier general of the Ohio militia. When the Canadian troubles broke out in 1837 he became an enthusiastic supporter of the patriot cause. Mr. Lane, the historian of Summit county, Ohio, is authority for the statement that he was appointed commander-

in-chief of the patriot forces at Cleveland, in the early part of 1838, but this is not borne out by satisfactory proof. He was certainly the ranking officer and commanded the patriot forces at the battle of Windsor. On his return home he was idolized by the citizens of Summit county, and was elected mayor of Akron in 1839, 1841, 1844, 1849, 1867 and 1868. He represented Summit and Portage counties in the Ohio state senate in 1862–3. In May, 1863, he was appointed by President Lincoln as assistant adjutant general of United States volunteers with the rank of major, and assigned to duty at Columbus, O., as chief of staff in the provost marshal's office. In 1865 he was sent to Madison, Wis., to muster out troops, and later in the year was commander of Camp Washburne, at Milwaukee. He was mustered out of service on Nov. 17, 1865.

Gen. Bierce was very prominent in the Masonic fraternity, filling every office in the order, and was elected grand master of the State lodge in 1853. He was first married in 1836 to Miss Frances C. Peck, a teacher, who died in 1839. His second wife was Miss Sophronia Ladd, an Akron teacher, who survived him and died in 1882. A child by each wife died in early youth. The general himself departed this life November 11, 1876, in his 76th year.

After his return home from Michigan he was twice indicted in the United States courts at Columbus. He responded to the indictments, but the matter was dropped, and he resumed his law practice at Akron.

It is said that the Canadian government offered a reward of $2,000 for his capture, and this made Gen. Bierce very cautious when visiting any of the lake cities, as it was possible that an attempt might be made to kidnap him.

In a letter to Mr. Lane, the late John Harmon of this city said: "In regard to Gen. Bierce, justice has never been done his case. He was in command throughout the short campaign. There was jealousy on the part of Cols. Harvell and Putnam, and they did not lose a chance to prejudice the officers and men. They were both killed at the orchard battle. I was Gen. Bierce's aide, and knew all the difficulties. Gen. Bierce saw before leaving this side the outcome and tried to persuade me to remain on the Detroit side. I resolved to go where he went and did so. He behaved nobly and protected the men who followed him. Gen. Bierce did not sail under false colors. In crossing from the island we changed clothing to save him from arrest by the United States authorities. He did avoid

arrest, and I was taken by the United States military, but released when my identity was discovered."

The sword which belonged to Surgeon Hume was handed to Gen. Bierce, who retained it during his life. This sword was, by his will, bequeathed with other relics to Buchtel college, Ohio, in the following words: "My sword, captured from Major J. J. Hume of the British army, in the battle of Windsor, Canada West, December 4, 1838, and by me carried through the war of the rebellion from May, 1863, to November, 1865, as assistant adjutant general of United States volunteers."

It is proper to state that Gen. Bierce never smelt powder in the war of the rebellion. His services were all routine work in Ohio and Wisconsin.

COL. SALATHIEL C. COFFINBERRY.

Col. Coffinberry participated in the battle of Windsor and commanded the reserve corps on the patriot side. The colonel was born in Ohio, and was editor and proprietor of a newspaper published at Mansfield, Ohio, when the Canadian troubles commenced. As before related, he was appointed to the command of a regiment of about 300 men, which was raised in Cleveland and arrived in Detroit in November, 1838. After the battle he returned to Ohio, but soon after came to Michigan and settled at Constantine, where he practiced law till his death in 1889.

Col. Coffinberry was an active and fearless soldier and a kind and worthy citizen. Just before the battle at Windsor some rude patriots were about forcing an entrance into several houses in the town, but he stopped them and protected the gentler sex from intrusion and insult.

In this State he was a very prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, having held the office of grand high priest of the grand chapter, and also grand master of the grand lodge of Michigan for many years. His daughter, Maria E. Coffinberry, a very superior lady, succeeded him as a practicing lawyer at Constantine. He was a brother of the late Wright L. Coffinberry, of Grand Rapids, city surveyor and civil engineer, who was a captain in the Michigan regiment of mechanics and engineers during the war of the rebellion, and who carried a rebel bullet in his body till the day of his death.

DR. EDWARD ALEXANDER THELLER.

Dr. Edward Alexander Theller, who commanded the patriot schooner Ann when she was captured by the Canadian troops at Amherstburg, was plump, full-figured, black-haired, with blue eyes, straight, well formed nose and high forehead, and about five feet six inches in height.

He was born in Colerain, county Kerry, Ireland, on January 13, 1804, of a good family, and was educated in an English college, where he distinguished himself as a linguist, and acquired Latin, Greek, Spanish and French, all of which he could speak fluently. He was a good tempered and jovial, but earnest and self-sacrificing man, a warm friend and a bitter enemy. He came to Montreal in 1824 and studied and practiced medicine there for several years. Like many young Irishmen, he imbibed a bitter enmity to British rule at an early age, and this was only intensified by his residence in Canada. When the cholera spread all over America in 1832, he came to Detroit and did good service as a physician in abating the plague. In 1834, when the dreaded scourge again visited Detroit, he was one of the most active physicians in the town. He prospered in worldly affairs, and in 1837 was proprietor of a wholesale grocery store, in Abbott's building, at 27 Atwater street, where Pingree & Smith's shoe factory now stands. Theller was also a practicing physician, in partnership with Dr. Lewis F. Starkey, father of the late Henry Starkey, secretary of the Detroit water board. He was also proprietor of a drug store at 119 Jefferson avenue, a wooden building, which then occupied the present site of Jas. Nall & Co.'s store, between Woodward avenue and Griswold street. The Michigan eye infirmary was also located in the drug store, and was under the direction of Dr. Starkey.

Theller attended several patients at the Michigan Exchange, but the atmosphere of that aristocratic hotel was not congenial to his sentiments or tastes. He was a confidant in the intrigues of Mackenzie and Papineau, and was early commissioned as brigadier general of the patriot forces of the west, whose headquarters were in Detroit.

When James Dougall, the leading merchant in Windsor, purchased in Detroit and shipped across a quantity of provisions for the use of the Canadian troops, Theller learned of it and unsuccessfully endeavored to prevent the transfer. His capture at Amherstburg on January 9, 1838; subsequent trial in Toronto, where he was sentenced to death; respite and escape from prison at Quebec, and return to Detroit on the day when the patriots were defeated at Windsor, on December 4, 1838, have already been chronicled in this article.

In August, after his return to Detroit, he started a small daily paper named, "The Spirit of '76, or Theller's Daily Republican Advocate." It was published in the rear wing of Wale's hotel, on Randolph street, on the present site of the Biddle house. Among its contributors was D. Bethune Duffield, now a leading Detroit lawyer. The latter saw his first literary effort in Theller's paper. The Spirit of '76 existed about

two years, after which the doctor removed to Buffalo, where the cholera was raging, and resumed the practice of medicine. He obeyed his humanitarian instincts, in 1849, by proceeding to Panama, where there was an epidemic of yellow fever. After the plague abated he went to San Francisco. Here he started and edited the Public Ledger and afterward the Evening Argus. He died at Hornitos, Mariposa county, Cal., on May 30, 1859, in his fifty-sixth year.

The San Francisco Herald, in Theller's obituary, said: "As a physician, scholar, soldier, author or editor, the deceased evinced marked ability. For the unfortunate there was always a heart-felt grasp of the hand and a seat at his table, whilst to the purse-proud and overbearing he held up the finger of scorn, and with his native pride held aloof from their companionship."

The maiden name of his wife was Ann Pratt, daughter of an English gentleman. Her first husband was named Willson, who was Dr. Theller's partner in the drug business in Montreal. After Dr. Willson died, she married Theller. When she visited her husband in prison in Canada she pleaded with Lord Durham for a commutation of her husband's death sentence, and this was granted.

Dr. Theller's son, Capt. Edward R. Theller, U. S. A., was killed in Idaho by the Nez Perces Indians, June 14, 1877, while serving under Gen. O. O. Howard. His surviving sons are Samuel Lount Theller, named after his father's fellow prisoner, who was hung in Toronto, retired capitalist; and George Platt Theller, agent for the Revere rubber company, who both live in San Francisco. The doctor's daughter, Elizabeth, married in 1848 Francis X. Cicott, of this city, who went to Buffalo for that purpose. Mr. Cicott and his wife both died in 1865, during his incumbency as sheriff of this county, and was succeeded by his brother E. V. Cicott.

The children of Francis X. Cicott and his wife Elizabeth are (1) Frank X. Cicott, coiner of the United States mint at San Francisco from 1874 to 1881, and now promoting a cable railway in this city; (2) Mrs. Annie Elliott, wife of Clifford Elliott, of the firm of Sinclair, Evans & Elliott, wholesale grocers, Detroit; (3) Mrs. Emma Campbell, wife of Louis D. Campbell, lawyer of Tacoma, Washington Territory, son of the late Congressman and Gen. Campbell of Johnstown, Pa.; (4) Mrs. Frances Theller Hunt, wife of Wm. B. Hunt, tea merchant, San Francisco.

COL. JOHN PRINCE.

Col. Prince was an Englishman, a lawyer by profession, and in Gloucester, his native city, had been the legal counsel of the powerful

Berkeley family. He was a tall, heavily built man, with a very handsome face, hazel eyes and a martial air. He had all the tastes of the average ealthy Englishman, lived in sumptuous style and was quite hospitable and a *bon vivant.* He was the first person on the Detroit river who imported blooded cattle from England. He was a popular man, of magnetic temperament, with occasional violent fits of temper, but was also possessed of estimable traits of character, and was a very able lawyer. After the patriot war he represented Essex county, in which Windsor, Sandwich and Amherstburg are situated, for twenty-five years in the provincial parliament. In 1859 he was appointed judge of the district of Algoma, Ont., and stayed at Sault Ste. Marie till he died on Nov. 30, 1870, aged seventy-five years. His remains were interred on an islet in the Sault Ste Marie river, which he designated as his burial place while on his death bed.

He left six sons and one daughter. Miss Bella Prince and her unmarried brother Charles still live at the old homestead at Sandwich.

The other five sons are dead. William Stratton Prince was an officer in the British army, afterwards chief of police at Toronto, and later register of deeds at Guelph, Ont., where he died. Septimus and Albert Prince died at Petite Cote, Ont.; Harry Prince died at Chicago, and Octavius Prince died in Harper hospital, Detroit. Neither the father nor mother nor the five sons died at home. Some of Col. Prince's grandchildren live in these parts.

RENSSELAER VAN RENSSELAER.

Rensselaer Van Rensselaer was a member of the Cherry Hill branch of the historic Van Rensselaer family of Albany, N. Y. The founder of the Van Rensselaers in America was De Heer Killian Van Rensselaer, the pearl and diamond merchant of Amsterdam in Holland, who was a director in the Dutch West Indian company. Killian selected in 1630, a princely tract of land at Fort Orange, consisting of forty-eight miles broad and twenty-four miles long, and his title to this was confirmed by the states general of Holland after he had purchased from the Indians their native right to the soil. The family are identified with the early history of the republic. Phillip Van Rensselaer was a colonel in the revolutionary war of 1776, and Solomon Van Rensselaer was one of the heroes of the war of 1812, and was a colonel under his uncle, Maj. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, the fifth patroon of Albany. Solomon was appointed postmaster of Albany in 1822, and held that position for many years. His son, Rensselaer Van Rensselaer, was appointed

attache of the diplomatic staff of Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison, minister to the republic of Colombia, in South America.

The future patriot general went to Colombo and wrote an interesting series of letters, describing the scenes of Colombia and habits of the natives, which were afterward published in the "Legacy of Historical Gleanings" by Mrs. C. V. R. Bonney, his sister. He returned home a few years later, and at the time of the commencement of the Canadian troubles was proprietor of the Albany Evening Advertiser. Young and of an ardent disposition, he deeply sympathized with the aspirations of the struggling Canadians. On December 11, 1838, he was at Buffalo on business. He was approached by Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, who, probably without any authority, offered to resign in his favor the position of commander-in-chief of the patriot army. Sutherland said it required a person better known than himself to impart "a proper tone to the enterprise." Van Rensselaer, at the request of Mackenzie, accepted the position. The rest of his military fortunes have been detailed. He was sentenced in 1839 by the United States court at Syracuse to six months' imprisonment and pay a fine of $250 for breach of the neutrality laws. While in prison he was visited by Wm. H. Seward and other notabilities. His fine was subsequently remitted by President Harrison.

After his death at Syracuse, N. Y., on January 1, 1850, a coroner's inquest was held, and, although the testimony was about conclusive that he had committed suicide, the coroner's jury returned a verdict that he "had come to his death by the accidental inhalation of the fumes of burning charcoal."

Mrs. Lydia B. Sill of this city, is a Van Rensselaer and is a cousin of the late Solomon Van Rensselaer, the father of the unfortunate commander of the patriot army. The late Jeremiah Van Rensselaer of this city was also a cousin. Jerry was master of chancery in 1841, clerk of Wayne county in 1852, city clerk of Detroit in 1851, and United States commissioner in 1853. His widow still lives in this city.

CONRAD ("COON") TEN EYCK.

U. S. Marshal Ten Eyck was a well known citizen and politician in those days. He was about five feet, eight inches in height and weighed about 150 pounds, light complexion with twinkling bluish-grey eyes, smooth face, wore his hair long, and was hustling, humorous and fond of practical jokes. He was a native of Albany, N. Y., and came of an

old New York Dutch family. Born in 1782, he came to Detroit in 1801, when he was 19 years of age, and went into business as a general merchant on the south side of Jefferson avenue, about where the store of Allan Shelden & Co. now stands. The great fire of 1805 wiped out his store and nearly all his earthly possessions.

Mr. Ten Eyck was one of the thirty or more leading American citizens who were ordered to leave Detroit by Henry Proctor, the British general, in 1813, and who signed the protest against this order, characterizing it as a violation of the conditions of the surrender of the town in 1812. He had to leave the city, however, but returned after Perry's victory later in the year.

Mr. Ten Eyck was treasurer of Wayne county from 1817 to 1825, and one of the five trustees of Detroit in 1818, his associates on the board being John R. Williams, L. Dequindre, Richard Smyth and Joseph Campau. He was also supervisor of Dearborn township from 1833 to 1839.

Being an active democrat, he was appointed United States marshal for the territory of Michigan, and held that office from 1837 to 1841.

He was a great friend and associate of Horace Heath, the landlord of the Eagle hotel, on Woodbridge street, which stood on the present site of Major & Isham's store, between Griswold and Shelby streets. In all the councils of the patriot leaders these two men were always ready to give their means and assistance to the cause.

Although a jovial and popular man, Ten Eyck did not forget his personal interests, and early in the thirties he purchased some 1,500 acres of farming land in Dearborn township, in this county, a mile and a half from the river Rouge. The home farm comprises 700 acres. Here he died on August 23, 1847, aged 65 years. His surviving children are William and Charles B. Ten Eyck, who live on the paternal farm in summer and at 164 Howard street, Detroit, in winter; Miss Catherine Ten Eyck, who lives with her brothers; Mrs. Jane Fisher, of Grosse Pointe township; Mrs. Maria Schloss and Mrs. Sarah Tompkins, of Dearborn, in this county, and Mrs. Helen Roberts, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

GEN. A. T. MC REYNOLDS.

Gen. A. T. McReynolds, of Grand Rapids, a leading citizen and pioneer of this State, and a soldier of national reputation, was a citizen of Detroit during the patriot war, and was a brigadier general of the patriot army.

The general has preserved his commission and shows it to curious

friends with pardonable pride. At the time of the Canadian troubles the general was a practicing lawyer in Detroit, and had made several hundreds of thousands of dollars in land speculations. He never participated with the patriot army as a combatant for good and sufficient reasons. He was at that time a colonel of the first regiment of Michigan militia, and one of the four organizers of the Brady Guards, which was included in his command. When President Van Buren issued his proclamation branding any citizen of the United States as an outlaw who crossed the border with the patriot troops, and declaring that any American participators in the war would forfeit their citizenship, Mr. McReynolds felt constrained to obey the law of the land. He was an alderman of Detroit in 1838–9, and just before the battle of Fighting island sent, at his own expense, $1,000 worth of blankets to the shivering patriots on the island. When Gens. Bierce and Coffinberry escaped in canoes across the river after the battle of Windsor they were his secret guests at his house on the northeast corner of Hastings street and Jefferson avenue. Gen. Bierce there exhibited the sword that had been taken from Surgeon Hume's dead body. Mr. McReynolds was disgusted at his preserving such a trophy, but said nothing as Bierce was his guest. Afterward, when Bierce sent him a long communication from Ohio, he returned it to him unopened. McReynolds was senator from Detroit in 1847 and led the opposition in the upper house against the bill for the removal of the State capital to Lansing, which only triumphed by one vote in the senate. As colonel of the United States dragoons he made a distinguished record in the Mexican war and has been president of the Mexican veterans' association of this State for fourteen years past. In Ray's history of the Mexican war occurs the following paragraph:

"Future generations may praise the martyrs of Thermopolæ, the gallantry of the immortal 600, the boldness of Zygom at Springfield; but history, ancient and modern, has no parallel for the bravery, dash and daring of the chivalrous Kearney and McReynolds in the celebrated charge of the 100 led by them upon 500 Mexicans at the zureta of San Antonia. They earned and received their brevets."

In the war of the rebellion he commanded first a regiment, subsequently a brigade and afterward a division in the Union army. He has held many positions of honor and profit in the public service since that time. His name and fame are not confined to this State, and he will long be honored by the country at large, not only for his bravery in war, but for the fine ability with which he performed every duty in civil life to which he has been assigned. He was a

whig till 1841, when he cast his political fortunes with the democrats, and has always adhered to that party with the exception of supporting the re-election of Lincoln.

He has been very prominent in the G. A. R., and was commander of that order in this State. He was also prominent in the Boys in Blue. He is the only survivor of the charter members of Detroit Commandery of Knights Templar.

At the ripe age of 82 years, he still practices occasionally at the courts of Kent county, where his trained legal mind and fine powers of reasoning generally place his clients on the successful side.

His daughter Mary afterward married Fred A. Nims of Muskegon, Mich. After her death Mr. Nims married her youngest sister, Helen. They now live at Muskegon. Gen. McReynolds' son, Frank McReynolds, has been the secretary of the Grand Rapids fire and police commission for seven years past.

Gen. McReynolds has kindly loaned the Sunday News his commission as brigadier general of the patriot army. It is printed on linen paper and measures about 7x9 inches. On the right side is a picture of an eagle in mid-air grasping a lion by the head. A crown, which had evidently been worn by the lion, is falling to the ground. Above is a representation of Canada's maple leaf, with a star in each of the upper corners. On the upper and lower right and left corners are small cuts of the American eagle and the arms of New York respectively. The following is the reading matter:

HEADQUARTERS, WINDSOR, U. C.,
Sept. 26, 1839.

To Andrew T. McReynolds:

SIR—By authority of the Grand Council, the Western Canadian Association, the Great Grand Eagle Chapter, and the Grand Eagle Chapter of Upper Canada, in Patriot Executive duty—You are hereby commissioned to the rank in line of a Brigadier General in Command of the Second Brigade of the Second Division on Patriot Service in Upper Canada.

Yours with respect,

H. S. HANDY, [SEAL]

Commander-in-Chief of the Northwestern Army on Patriot service in Upper Canada.

E. J. ROBERTS, Adjt. Gen'l N. W. A. P.

On the back appears the following countersignments:

JOHN MONTGOMERY,

President of the Grand Eagle Chapter of Upper Canada on Patriot executive duty.

Windsor, Upper Canada, Sept. 26, 1839.

ROBERT ROBERTSON, Sec'y. [SEAL]

The dating of this document at Windsor was of course done for political effect. The patriot flag was hoisted at Windsor a few days before the capture of the Ann, in January, 1838, but it promptly disappeared when Col. Radcliff's forces occupied the town. It would have fared very ill with any of the men whose signatures appear above, had they set foot in Windsor on the day Mr. McReynolds received this commission.

THE NELSONS.

The memory of the Nelson brothers, who were patriot leaders in the lower province, has always been held in high esteem. Dr. Wolfred Nelson was the only commander of the insurgents who won a fight, but his victory over the British troops at St. Denis was followed by dire disaster. He was arrested, tried and transported to Bermuda. He returned to Montreal, his native city, in 1842, and was triumphantly elected to parliament in 1845. While in his seat he was taunted by the tories, when he rose and said: "Those who call me and my friends rebels," said he, "I tell them they lie in their throats. * * * It is their vile acts that madden people and drive them to desperation." He was afterward inspector of Canadian prisons for the two provinces, and occupied a very high social and political position.

His brother Robert was an eminent physician and represented Montreal in parliament in 1827. After the defeat at Lacadie, in November, 1838, he escaped across the border to St. Albans, Vt., where he practiced medicine. His office was in a building owned by the father of Wm. P. Wells of Detroit. The latter, when a boy, remembers seeing the doctor, who was a very skillful surgeon, removing a piece of glass from a man's neck. Dr. Nelson went to California, made a fortune and lost it by the knavery of an agent. He afterward removed to New York, where he attained much fame as a physician and medical writer, and died there about twenty years ago.

JUDGE DANIEL GOODWIN.

Judge Daniel Goodwin was born in Geneva, N. Y., in 1799, and graduated at Union college in 1819. Wm. H. Seward and Bishops Potter and Doane were among his fellow students. He came to Detroit in 1825, where he served as United States district attorney during the administrations of Jackson and Van Buren. While the patriot war was in progress he prosecuted the Americans who vio-

lated the neutrality laws within the jurisdiction of the United States district, of which he was attorney. His life was frequently threatened, and he was sometimes guarded on the streets of Detroit by Gen. Brady, Robert Stuart and other personal friends. He served as justice of the supreme court of Michigan from 1843 to 1846. In 1850 he was elected president of the Michigan constitutional convention. He served as circuit judge of the Lake Superior peninsula for many years and died on August 25, 1887. He was an able, upright judge, and an honest man.

BEN WOODWORTH.

Capt. Ben Woodworth of Detroit was an ardent sympathizer with the patriot cause, and expended much of his time and money in the movement. He was a noted citizen of Detroit, where he commanded an artillery company in the war of 1812. The long room at the Steamboat hotel, at the northwest corner of Randolph and Woodbridge streets, of which he was the landlord, was the scene of many patriotic meetings, and he boarded many of the troops and officers at his own expense. After the Steamboat hotel burned down in 1848, he removed to St. Clair, where he resumed his profession as a builder. His brother, Samuel Woodworth was the author of the "Old Oaken Bucket." He died in St. Clair, Mich., in 1874, aged nearly ninety-one years. His only surviving child is Mrs. A. J. Cummings of this city.

BATTLE OF PELEE ISLAND.

In the account of the battle of Pelee island given in the Sunday News two descriptions were given. One was by Maj. Benj. Wait, of Grand Rapids, who was present, and the other by Dr. McCormick, of Pelee island, whose father and two uncles were participators. In the interest of history the Sunday News procured, through Senator James McMillan, of this State, and by the courtesy of Gen. Julian Pauncefort, British minister to the United States at Washington, the official account by Col. John Maitland, who commanded the British forces at that engagement. It was obtained from the records of the English war office in London. It is here given entire:

Amherstburg, Upper Canada,
March 4, 1838.

SIR—When I wrote you on Sunday last, announcing the defeat of the pirates at Fighting island, I did not think I should have to report

to you another instance of a British island being taken possession of in that quarter.

Early in the week I received information from different quarters that Point Pelee island had been taken possession of by the patriots from Sandusky bay. This island is of considerable magnitude, being from seven to nine miles in length, and from four to five in breadth; it is situated in Lake Erie, about forty miles from Amherstburg, and twenty miles from the shore. I sent three or four local officers to ascertain the fact of their being there; they went close to the shore and were fired upon. This, together with the circumstance of several people who had gone over to the island, to look after their property, and who were detained by the patriots, confirmed me that the report was true. I, therefore, on Thursday afternoon, dispatched Capt. Glasgow, of the royal artillery, to inspect the strength of the ice and report his opinion to me as to the practicability of moving guns and troops to that place. He returned the following day at twelve o'clock, and reported that the ice was practicable and strong enough to pass. I therefore determined, without loss of time to attack them by daybreak the following morning. Accordingly, with two guns (six pounders), the four companies of the Thirty-second regiment, one company of the Eighty-third regiment, a small detachment of thirty belonging to the Sandwich troop of cavalry and St. Thomas troop of cavalry, one company of the Essex volunteer militia and a small party of Indians, moved that evening under my own immediate command, eighteen miles along the lake shore, where I halted for some time to rest the horses, and at two o'clock in the morning commenced my march on the lake ice, arriving at the island just at break of day.

I had previously arranged my plan of attack, which was as follows: I directed Capt. Brown, with the first and second companies of the Thirty-second regiment, to proceed round the south end of the island and take up a position on the ice to intercept any attempting at escape by that direction. He was accompanied by a detachment of about twenty-five men of the Sandwich and St. Thomas cavalry. Having made this arrangement, I landed myself, with the remainder of the force and the two guns, at the north end. The rebels fled on my approach and escaped into the woods. I was here informed by some of the loyalists who had been made prisoners by the patriots on the island, that they were in force to the amount of about 500. The troops moved on in extended order, and pursued them through the island; but as the wood was thick, and the snow

extremely deep and heavy, the men were much retarded in their progress.

The rebels finding themselves hemmed in on every side, moved out at the south end of the island, the only place by which they could escape to the American shore, and advanced in line, upwards of 300 men, well armed and organized, upon Capt. Brown's detachment where they met with the greatest resistance; a brisk fire being kept up on both sides for some time, and several of Capt. Brown's detachment having fallen, he determined to charge them, which he did, and forced them back to the wood where they retreated in great confusion at the point of the bayonet. I particularly beg to recommend this circumstance to the notice of his excellency, the lieutenant general commanding.

On the road, inside of the wood, the rebels had a number of sleighs, by which means they succeeded in carrying away about forty of their wounded men, the others succeeded in escaping at the southern most point of the island and got over to the American coast, leaving killed on the spot their commanding officer, a Col. Bradley, a Maj. Howdley, and Capts. Van Rensselaer and McKeon, and several others; some prisoners were taken, several of whom were severely wounded.

I regret to say that the taking of this island has not been gained without considerable loss on our part; and I have to request that you will report for his excellency's information, that thirty soldiers of the Thirty-second regiment fell in this affair, two of whom were killed, and others, some dangerously, some severely, wounded. I sincerely regret the loss of so many brave soldiers and feel it the more when I reflect they did not fall before an honorable enemy, but under the fire of a desperate gang of murderers and marauders. A list of the killed and wounded I have the honor herewith to inclose.

Having scoured the woods and satisfied myself that the island was cleared, I reformed the troops and about five o'clock in the evening proceeded back, and the soldiers returned to their quarters at Amherstburg that night.

When you take a view of the circumstances of this affair, I need hardly detail to you the arduous duties the soldiers have had to perform, from the time they left this until their return, traveling as they did forty miles in an excessively cold night, twenty of which were across the lake; accomplishing the object I had in view, namely, liberating the loyalists detained on the island, gaining possession of the place, restoring it to the proprietors, defeating, with considerable loss, the enemy, and returning again to their barracks within thirty hours.

My warmest thanks are due to the whole of the officers who sup-

ported me in this undertaking, and it is impossible for me in words to do justice to the gallant soldiers of her majesty's royal artillery, Thirty-second regiment, Eighty-third regiment, and the loyal volunteers of cavalry, infantry, and the few Indians who constituted the force under my command.

I have to regret that Mr. Thomas Parish, a private in the St. Thomas troop of volunteer cavalry, was killed in the rear of the Thirty-second regiment by a musket shot. Col. Prince, of Sandwich, Mr. Sheriff Lachlan, Capt. Gritty and several other gentlemen asked my permission to accompany me, which they did, and gallantly acted with their rifles, with our soldiers, against the rebels in the wood. I found them very useful from their knowledge of the locality of the place.

I trust this second repulse on this frontier of the American banditti —let it be understood that I have it from satisfactory authority that the whole of the gang driven from Pelee island are American citizens —will be a lesson to them, that they are not with impunity to hold British territory.

A large tri-colored flag with two stars and the word "liberty" worked upon it and eleven prisoners were also taken, some of whom state that they were formerly on Navy island; about forty American muskets, some ammunition, swords, etc., were also taken.

I am informed by the prisoners that it was the decided intention of these people to land on the Canadian shore last night and march upon Amherstburgh, destroying by fire on their way all the houses, etc., they had to pass, and for which six sleigh loads of American citizens from Sandusky bay had joined them the night previous to my attack, and made their escape back again immediately on my appearance in the front of the island.

I have the honor to request that you will lay the substance of this letter before his excellency, the lieutenant governor, and forward it to Montreal for information of his excellency, the lieutenant general commanding. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant.

JOHN MAITLAND,

Lieutenant colonel commanding 32d regiment and colonel commanding western frontier.

Col. Forster, commanding forces in upper Canada, etc., etc.

COMPARING THE ACCOUNTS.

To aid searchers after historical accuracy, consideration of the points at variance are herewith given:

THE PATRIOT COMMANDER.

Dr. F. B. McCormick at first claimed that the patriots were led by Gen. George Van Rensselaer, a relative of the Navy island commander, and Gen. T. J. Sutherland. In a subsequent letter, however, he says that Hoadley was the commander, and that the latter was killed and buried on the island.

Maj. Wait claims that the commander of the expedition was Col. Seward, of Buffalo, but that he resigned, and that he (Wait) commanded the patriots during the engagement.

Col. John Maitland, the British commander, says in his official report that the commanding officer was Col. Bradley, and that he and Maj. Howdley were killed.

NUMBER OF BRITISH TROOPS.

Dr. McCormick says that the number engaged was ninety-six regular soldiers of the Thirty-second regiment and fourteen mounted Canadian militia.

Maj. Wait says that the British force consisted of at least 2,000 men of whom 800 were engaged.

Col. Maitland reports that his force consisted of two six pounder guns, four companies of the Thirty-second regiment, one company of the Eighty-third regiment, thirty mounted militia, a company of the Essex county militia and a few Indians. The force engaged was under Capt. Brown and consisted of two companies of Thirty-second regiment and a detachment of about twenty-five militia cavalry.

NUMBER OF PATRIOT TROOPS.

Dr. McCormick says that the force was said to be 2,000 strong, and the number engaged were between 300 and 400 men.

Maj. Wait says there were 1,300 patriots, but that less than 150 were armed.

Col. Maitland says the patriots numbered more than 300 men, well armed and organized.

NUMBER OF BRITISH KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Dr. McCormick says it was eight killed and fourteen wounded.

Maj. Wait says that Maitland's report acknowledged a loss of 630 *hors du combat*, of whom sixty-five were killed.

Col. Maitland reports two killed and thirty wounded.

NUMBER OF PATRIOTS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Dr. McCormick claims that fourteen patriots were killed; number of wounded unknown.

Maj. Wait says that Capts. Van Rensselaer and McKeon and five privates were killed, and that twenty-five were wounded and taken prisoners, some of whom died.

Col. Maitland reports that the commander, Col. Bradley, Major Howdley and Capt. Van Rensselaer were killed, "and several others; some prisoners were taken, several of whom were severely wounded."

The writer does not feel it incumbent on him to pronounce in favor of one or the other account, where they differ radically, except that, in his opinion, Col. Maitland's report of the British forces engaged and the number of killed and wounded on both sides, must be accepted by the future historian of the patriot war. But even Col. Maitland does not give the number of troops under his own command. In other particulars Maitland was as liable to be mistaken as the other authorities.

"A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION"—RUSH R. SLOANE GIVES HIS OPINION OF "THE PATRIOT WAR" ARTICLES.

To the Editor:

I have read the different articles in "The Patriot War," and I cannot but congratulate the author on his success. It is a valuable contribution to the subject. In regard to the whole subject it is more correct than anything I have seen.

In regard to Point Pelee, I think too much credit is given to Major Wait and not enough to some others. He may be right, but he differs so much from the notes I have that I have determined, at least for the present, not to have mine published. I have a means of confirming or disproving the statements, and I am now trying to do so.

Some more attention should be given to Gen. McLeod and the assemblage of the patriots along the south shore of Lake Erie and at Sandusky before and after the battle of Pelee island. The British loss was over 60 at the battle, and others died soon after, as was claimed at the time, by "balls" poisoned by the patriots; but this was not so, and the poison was merely the coating of a dampness produced on the lead balls, thus forming an imitation of nitrate of lead, which, of course, was poisonous. Col. Bradley and Major Howdley more than any others, gave character to the Pelee fight.

When I have made a re-examination of data on which I base my article on the Pelee island fight, I will be glad to give it to you. I with pleasure testify to the interest the articles have excited, and to the generally correct matter, making a most valuable addition to the history of the northwest. It could be made a readable and salable pamphlet.

RUSH R. SLOANE.

Sandusky, Ohio, June 23, 1890.

BATTLE OF WINDSOR—GEN. A. T. MC REYNOLDS SCORES GEN. BIERCE SEVERELY.

To the Editor:

I read the accounts of the battle of Windsor and the biography of Gen. Bierce. The general was my guest "in cog," and was the nominal commander at the battle of Windsor. He proved to be a complete abortion, and was denounced by the late Col. Coffinberry and other officers of the expedition. After the battle, he recrossed the Detroit, reaching my house under the cover of darkness, carrying with him the sword of the murdered British officer, who, under a flag of truce, sought a parley with the insurgents. He was inhumanly shot down, and the sword which Bierce brought to my house as a trophy had been taken from the murdered officer's side. It was a small sword, such as surgeons wear merely as a badge of office; supposed to be that of an assistant surgeon. Gen. Bierce left for Ohio at the most convenient opportunity in disguise to avoid the officers who were on the lookout for him. When he arrived at his home at Akron, O., he addressed to me a letter of several pages, exculpating himself, etc., etc. I was so disgusted with the man that I did not read it through, nor did I condescend to reply to it. You say he bequeathed the sword at his death in 1876 to Buchtel college. I have only this to say, that I congratulate the legatees for being the possessors of this emblem of the donor's shame and disgrace. The college, I doubt not, is totally ignorant of the foul source and circumstances through which the general received it. You ask for the date of my commission as brigadier general of the patriot forces. I inclose the document itself, as more satisfactory, with the injunction that you will promptly return it to me.

Sincerely yours,

ANDREW T. MCREYNOLDS.

Grand Rapids, June 17, 1890.

George J. Smith, of Mount Morris, Genesee county, Mich., writes that his name has been omitted from the list of Mrs. Benj. Wait's

surviving brothers, of whom he is the youngest. He became a member of the Order of Hunters in 1838, and in 1840 received a lieutenant's commission from Maj. Gen. Handy at Niagara Falls. He also accompanied Theller in a number of hazardous expeditions. Mr. Smith was born in 1824, so that he was only fourteen years old when he joined the patriots.

Miss M. Wren, 220 Howard street, Detroit, writes, expressing satisfaction with the history of "the patriot war." Her father was one of the militia at that time, and the family still retain possession of the gun, sword, etc., used by him during that period.

R. B. Ross.

LETTERS FROM CITIZENS ABOUT THE PATRIOT WAR ARTICLE.

To the Editor:

I have been very much interested in The Sunday News' history of "The Patriot War." It is the most correct account of the stirring times of 1837–8 on this border that I have ever read. I was a town guard at the time, and shouldered a musket to "preserve the peace," as did Mr. Joy. I took no stock in the patriot cause, and thought they were a parcel of scamps. I told a group of them one day that if I was a Canadian and caught them on the other side I would hang every one of them. They didn't like what I said, but did not resent it. I was a guard over the steamer Erie when she lay at the Griswold street wharf. The engineer of the boat told me he had removed some part of the machinery, so that the patriots could not take her away even if they captured her, but towards morning the boat moved away from the wharf and went down the river to the patriot camp. The engineer was a patriot and had been fooling us. I crossed over to Windsor the second day after the battle and went to the trenches where they buried the dead patriots. I saw the arm of a man sticking out of the ground. It was one of the largest arms I ever saw and must have belonged to a very large and muscular man. I was in Algonac on business a few days afterwards and saw some of the patriots who had escaped from the battle of Windsor and had crossed over at that part of the St. Clair. They were a hard looking lot, and I thought to myself as I saw them, "the way of the transgressor is hard." Most of the leaders of the democratic party, including the governor, United States marshal and deputies, were encouraging the desperadoes from this side to cross to Canada as Canadian patriots. It seemed to me for no other object than to commit depredation on the inoffensive Canadians, who were satisfied with the home govern-

ment and did not wish any relief from this side. When taken prisoners by the Canadians I think they were treated with great leniency, and with much more than we would have shown the Canadians had they come here for a like purpose of giving us a new government.

A. SHELEY.

Detroit, July 2, 1890.

MR. ROSS CONGRATULATED ON HIS VALUABLE HISTORY.

To the Editor:

It is a fair inference, from the meagerness of historical reference to "The Patriot War," and from the paucity of literature upon that subject, that by common consent of both sides it was thought best to allay the irritation along the border—not unshared by the people at large—by pursuing the policy of "saying nothing more about it."

Nevertheless, it was a most interesting and romantic incident in our history, and it has been a matter of regret that its story was not told when the details were fresh, when material was abundant and when witnesses were plentiful.

Aside from those who, like myself, have a personal interest in the subject, the admirable papers of Mr. Ross have been received, within my observation, with general attention and appreciation by the public. I trust that the evidence of this general interest may, in some measure, compensate the writer for the labor and research which he has evidently bestowed upon the articles.

The movement, from our side of the border, was, as to individuals, for the most part born of the old revolutionary sentiment implanted in the breasts of their children and grandchildren by the fathers and mothers of '76; the result of the ill-starred venture taught the lesson of how widely an invisible boundary line might separate two peoples of the same race, in national feeling, in sentiment, in conviction, and in aspiration.

I beg to congratulate you on the success of your effort to rescue "The Patriot War" from oblivion, and to express the hope that the papers of Mr. Ross may be reprinted in more enduring form.

Very truly yours,

DON M. DICKINSON.

Detroit, June 30, 1890.

MR. DUFFIELD'S RECOLLECTIONS.

To the Editor:

It is hardly necessary for me to say that I, like many other older residents, have been greatly interested in the efforts of

the News to gather up and preserve the incidents of what is known as the patriot border war of 1837–8. My residence in Detroit dates from 1839, after the campaign was ended; but the air was full of the stories and sufferings of the men who were then inspired with a desire to rescue the Canadas from British sway and annex them to the United States. Many of the characters revived and whose appearances are portrayed were familiar acquaintances to the young men of Detroit at that time. I distinctly remember Dr. Theller, as we were wont to call him, with his military cut coat, his cane and hat. It was said he fancied himself in form and figure a second Napoleon. His paper, "The Spirit of '76," was published in a building adjacent to the old American hotel on Jefferson avenue. It was a favorite medium of many of us young men for the airing of our youthful lucubrations, and the doctor was always very ready to receive and publish them, barren, doubtless, as many of them were in ideas and merit. Col. Prince, with whom I early became acquainted, was a very ogre with sympathizers of the patriot cause and was prohibited for a long time from the privileges of Detroit's free streets, in consequence of the bloody record he made against the patriots of '38. I have no special instances worthy of record and write this note only to say that the Sunday News has done a good work in gathering up these materials for the history of those times, many of which would have been otherwise lost. I have been written to by several acquaintances outside of the city to procure copies of the Sunday News containing these articles, and was disappointed in my last application to find that none of them were to be had.

Yours, etc.

D. BETHUNE DUFFIELD.

THEY FAILED TO RESCUE THE PATRIOTS.

To the Editor:

In common with the myriad readers of the Sunday News, I have followed with increasing interest "the 'scapes by flood and field" so graphically depicted by the author of "The Patriot War" in your columns. The painful, sometimes atrocious, incidents of that hopeless struggle are set forth with a terseness and succinctness, aside from their admirable grouping, that recall the memories associated with academic days and the classical Sallust.

Although for lack of a genuine *raison d'etre,* I could not participate in that rather desultory warfare, I wandered over the historic

ground covered by it, not many years after its cessation, and the usual written and unwritten traditions were found in abundance.

Perhaps you will permit me to contribute a well authenticated fact touching the fight at the windmill, below Prescott, in Canada, so well told in Mr. Ross' story, as it reflects credit upon the humane spirit of the British officers in command at that point, though they revive some unpleasant recollections of one who afterwards occupied a conspicuous place in the councils of our country.

It will be remembered that when Van Schoultz and his hapless comrades were driven into the windmill as a last refuge, the British troops sat down before it with the determination to starve them into a surrender. The issue was certain death to the poor fellows in the old mill, which I have often visited in other days, and as this was clearly understood on the American side, most serious efforts were made to secure their release. But it was possible to succeed in this kindly purpose only through diplomacy, for the United States forces had been dispatched to the immediate frontier, as was done in long years subsequent, to prevent further national complications. Both the American and British officers exchanged civilities in the fashion recognized amongst soldiers and gentlemen, and the officer in command of the American contingent took occasion one night at dinner with the commanding officer of the British soldiers at Prescott to plead earnestly for the foredoomed wretches in the windmill, and it was tacitly agreed by the generous soul to allow them a chance for their lives if it could be done without compromising his honor.

The detail of the measures has never, I believe, been revealed, but the plan for the rescue was at once concocted by the American officer, and a tug was employed at Ogdensburg to proceed at an hour fixed between midnight and three in the morning to a small dock at the Windmill point and quietly remove the besieged outlaws. The command of this tug was given to the Hon. Preston King, of New York state, and it started on its prescribed mission of mercy at the moment indicated. For some mysterious reason just as the steamer was approaching its destination, it suddenly reversed its engines, turned about and returned to Ogdensburg, leaving the prisoners to their fate.

Several explanations of this strange conduct were given, but no satisfactory one was ever vouchsafed.

The deplorable death by suicide of Preston King in after years has been ascribed to the remorse that always haunted him for his

inability, through cowardice or otherwise, to effect the rescue of Van Schoultz and his deluded followers.

FLANEUR.

Detroit, July 1, 1890.

BENJAMIN LETT.

To the Editor:

I have read the patriot war articles in your paper very closely, and can vouch that in the particulars with which I am conversant it is a very correct and interesting account of the Canadian troubles.

Ben Lett was not my uncle, as you stated, but a cousin of my aunt's and was a frequent visitor at my father's house, on the Niagara river, near Lewiston. The Letts were of Holland extraction, and emigrated to Ireland during the reign of William III. At Wexford, during the rebellion of 1798, Ben Lett's mother, who was then only eleven years of age, was twice imprisoned for loyalty to the British government. Her brother, Benjamin Warren, then twenty years old, was dragged out of his father's house and barbarously murdered by the rebels.

In 1819 Samuel Lett, with his wife and four sons, including Ben and two daughters emigrated to Canada and settled on the Ottawa river near Montreal.

Here Samuel Lett died and in 1833 the widow and her family removed to Darlington, on Lake Ontario, Upper Canada. The family were orangemen and protestants.

In 1837 a party of orangemen fired at Ben near his mother's house because he would not join them in hunting down the patriots. Ben was furious at the injustice, and crossed over into the United States and joined the patriot army. Ben fought with the patriot army at Fighting island and Pelee island, and carried wounded men off both battlefields. He also did his part at the battle of Prescott. After the battle of Windsor he swore eternal vengeance against the Family Compact.

To the patriot cause he was a counterpart of O'Donovan Rossa in the Irish struggle, except that Rossa was theoretical and Lett was practical. He helped to blow up Gen. Brock's monument at Lewiston; he blew up the locks of the Welland canal, drowning the country and greatly damaging the works; he killed Capt. Usher, one of the expedition that cut out the Caroline, at his own door at Chippewa, U. C., and he came very near firing the whole British fleet, lying in Kingston harbor, in January, 1839.

His last exploit was an unsuccessful attempt to fire the Canadian

steamer Great Britain, at Oswego, N. Y., on June 25, 1840. His confederate, David Dafoe, turned state's evidence and Lett was arrested, tried and convicted of arson. He was sentenced to seven years in the New York state prison. While on a train en route to Auburn prison, shackled and handcuffed and under guard of two deputy sheriffs, he jumped off the train near Oswego down an embankment twenty feet high, slipped off the handcuffs and cut the shackles off his legs. He then went to Illinois, but returned in 1841 to New York, where he was arrested in Buffalo by a company of armed policemen. He was imprisoned in Auburn, but was pardoned by Gov. Silas Wright in 1845. He then went to Illinois and settled on a farm at Northville, La Salle county.

On Oct. 15, 1858, he left his home for Lake Michigan, having been induced by some persons interested in his destruction to engage in a trading expedition between the lake ports. He was taken ill in the bark Morgan, Capt. Brenton, on Dec. 1, 1858, and was carried on a propeller to Milwaukee, where he expired on the 9th. An autopsy showed that he had been poisoned by strychnine. Who the guilty parties were was never known. Two monuments on one burial lot in La Salle county mark his last resting place; on the stone is the following queer inscription:

"The records of American partnership in the case of Benjamin Lett. They are like a Christian hell without a Jesus Christ. No escape."

E. J. PIERCE.

Detroit, July 1, 1890.

MR. WILLCOX'S RECOLLECTIONS.

To the Editor:

As a spectator, at a safe distance, of the battle of Windsor, and to some extent a participator in some of the events of the campaign on our borders, I beg to add my mite to the commendation so generally expressed orally and in print of Historian Ross' exhaustive narrative of the Canadian rebellion of 1837–8. With what patient toil and unyielding purpose that man must have worked. No mind was ever delved more thoroughly, none ever yielded a higher percentage of the genuine ore of information. Judging from my personal acquaintance with most of the principal characters connected therewith in Windsor and Detroit, and a somewhat familiar knowledge of the goings on hereabouts, I must say that Mr. Ross' work is a marvelous production. Indeed, the word work fitly expresses it. Where did this "Man of Ross" get all these facts, so concisely told, yet woven so beautifully

into his interesting story? How much midnight oil did he consume, how many Fabers used up in his almost fabulous specimen of industrial art? Where in the name of all the saints did he get all those pictures? I feel at times almost inclined to think some of them imaginary, and yet how familiar some of them appear in the full glory of the sear and yellow leaf. And those pedigrees. How many might consult in vain their family bible for such an extended account of their relations. Two suggestions. Put that history into book form. Write the life of Col. John Prince now while the matter is accessible. His speeches in favor of the annexation of the Canadas to the United States would be particularly good reading just now, and quite apropos to the discussion of the subject in the News.

E. N. WILLCOX.

Detroit, July 3, 1890.

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